Hello HHES families! We are now at the second half of the school year! We just wrapped up the 2nd quarter and are now embarking on the 3rd quarter! Time flies when you’re having fun!! I would like to thank you for working alongside us in order to make sure that we are providing the best education possible for our scholars.

As we transition into the 3rd quarter, we would like to keep our focus on academic achievement and attendance of students. In order for students to excel, they need to be at school, on time, everyday. Please help us with this effort. Teachers are working diligently in planning rigorous lessons that will engage our scholars in the academic process.

During this quarter, students will take a number of assessments, to track their academic progress and growth. A few of the assessments, includes, the SLO assessment, Math Benchmark and MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program). We hope to see great growth among our students at all levels! Please encourage your child to stay focus and to do their absolute best on the tests.

Parents, we would like to remind you of the importance of student safety. One portion of that safety is during our KISS and RIDE drop off in the morning. In order to ensure a smooth and safe transition in the morning, for both students and staff, it is imperative that you help us by following the procedures. The drop off circle is for parents to drop off their students, while waiting in the car to drive off. A staff member will be there to assist your scholar out of the car. If you desire to walk your child inside to their classroom, we ask that you please park in a designated parking space. Please do not park or get out of your vehicle, while in the KISS and RIDE circle. It slows up the process of getting students out safely. You are welcome to park any time after 7:45am.

Thank you for being our partners in educating our scholars! We appreciate all that you do! HAWKS FLY HIGH!!

Respectfully,

Mr. Brown
Mrs. McNeil
Pre-Kindergarten News

Pre-kindergarten students have done a great job increasing academic achievement. Many students have improved in their alphabet recognition, number recognition, and shape recognition. Students have also improved in matching number sets 1-10. We had a Learning Party on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 beginning at 3:00 pm. Students were able to take home books, use flexible foam shapes, pattern blocks, and teddy bear counters to strengthen their mathematic skills. Pre-kindergarten was very excited to celebrate Valentine’s Day on February 14, 2020. Thank you parents for your donations! Students graphed candy hearts, decorated their mail bag, and read Valentine’s Day stories. It was a very to a fun-filled day!!

The Pre-K Team

Kindergarten News

**Literacy**
Unit 4: Meet Your Neighbors
Sight Words:
*Jump, them, then, on, these, those, us, him, her, his, yes, no*

**Writing**
CVC Words

**Math**
Unit 6: Subtraction

**Science**
Living Things and Their Habitats

**Health.**
Our Bodies

**Social Studies**
Black History Month – Historic Figures

**Important Dates**
Valentine’s Day Party 2/14
No School – President’s Day 2/17

Help us go on field trips! Get fingerprinted to be a chaperone at the Sasscer Building, 14201 School Lane Upper Marlboro, MD. Ask your child’s teacher for details.
First Grade News

As first grade moved into the 3rd quarter, we celebrated the 100 the Day of School. My how time flies!

In Reading, we are moving into Unit 3-What Changes Over Time. We will continue to blend/build words, and write sentences containing verbs, contractions, and commas in a series. In Math, we are working hard on Unit 6-Problems with Unknowns. In Writing, we are reading/writing non-fiction stories In Science, we have started the unit on Sound. In Social Studies, we are learning about wants vs. needs.

Parents, please continue to listen to your child read for at least twenty minutes each day and check your child’s homework folder and backpack. Please ensure that your child is at school every day on time, in the correct uniform, and with the necessary supplies needed for class. We THANK YOU so much for your continued support for the success of our children!

After-School Chats

“What’s in your backpack?” Greet your child with this question and you’ll discover a lot about what they do in class.

- Set aside time each day to go through their papers. Try to do it first thing after school while the day is still fresh in their mind.
- Look over your youngster’s work together. Help them feel proud by making a specific comment about something they have done. For instance, if they show you a picture drawn in art class, you might say, “The gray sky and big waves look just like our raining day at the beach.”
- Have them talk through math problems or science experiments to show you what they have learned. They might explain how they find the perimeter of a triangle or why ants dig tunnels, for example.
Greetings Parents!

During this Third Quarter, the Second Grade Team is elated to inform you about the academic independence, and targeted gains that our students have mastered thus far. We advocate building a classroom environment that will engage our students in the boundless opportunities of learning. Instructionally, the students are currently implementing strategies that are representative of the following academic objectives:

- Students will record annotations in order to respond to essential questions, and important story events.
- Students will complete varied graphic organizers in order to respond to essential questions and story elements.
- Students will review 1 and 2 step word problems, regrouping with addition, regrouping with subtraction, place value 1-1000, adding money, counting money, telling time intervals, determining math “unknown” results, and comparing greater and lesser than values of numbers 1-1000.
- Students will continue studying different types of wild weather conditions in order to create a weather project.
- Students will use historical, economical, technological, geographical, and cultural themes in order to study the world around us.
- More Importantly, the SLO Math Post Assessment will be administered to the students by March 4, 2020, in order to identify the students’ data-driven academic growth, and/or deficiencies.
- Proudly, the students completed the testing administration for the Diagnostic Reading Assessment, the MAP Growth Reading Assessment, and the Math Benchmark Assessment.

In addition, during the month of April, the Second Grade student population will attend FREE swimming lessons located at the new Brandywine Sports Complex Center! The students will learn about water safety in order to apply swimming behaviors, swimming techniques, and mobility positions in a height appropriate body of water. The teachers, and students alike, are excited about this upcoming interactive endeavor. More information is forthcoming!! Look out for permission slips!

Happily, this 2019 - 2020 school year has been very rewarding! The Second-Grade Team believes that our students, and parents, are exceptionally talented and gifted! We are enthusiastic about what the conclusion of this academic school year will bring! Parents, thank you for all of your dedicated support. We appreciate and value all of the unconditional love, and sacrifices that you make on behalf of your child’s education daily.

The Second Grade Team

Mark Your Calendars...School is CLOSED

Professional Day for Teachers: 3-Hour Early Dismissal for Students
Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Spring Break
Monday, April 6 – Monday, April 13, 2020
Third Grade News

Science

In this month of February, your child has begun to learn about Life Science. Students will develop an understanding of the similarities and differences of various organisms’ life cycles. They will learn that organisms have different inherited traits and will develop an understanding that an organism’s environment can affect certain traits that develop within that organism. Students will also be able to construct an explanation using evidence for how the variations in traits among individuals of the same species can prove to be advantageous for survival, acquiring mates, and reproduction. Also, Parents; we are near the final stretch on completing The STEM Fair Project. This is a gentle reminder that Stem Fair Project homework is due every Thursday. If you have, any questions or concerns I can be reach through Class Dojo.

Reading/English/Language Arts

Welcome to Fabulous February for the Grade 3 Reading/English/Language Arts and Social Studies Departments. We have taken the MAP-R Reading Assessment and the i-Ready Diagnostic, both of which will exemplify your child’s level of growth and mastery of the standards, skills, and concepts we have learned this school year. Please continue to login to the PGCPS Clever login to access the i-Ready app to practice the individualized path of learning specifically tailored to your child. In Social Studies, we are reading and writing an essay about the development of communication and transportation in the United States and how it has impacted our lives. Thank you for your continued support of our awesome scholars! Hawks fly high!

Math

Scholars are executing division with precision in Unit 7. We are currently working on writing our very own math stories and word problems. The school will get to see some of our creative math stories on the third grade math bulletin board.

Scholars have nearly mastered the standard of division, but we have to continue working on our multiplication fluency to truly conquer this unit. We will soon begin Unit 8!

Be there!

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your child’s entire school career. Show him/her that school comes first by trying to keep days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks.
Fourth Grade News

Math
We are halfway done the year and I must say that I am proud of our improvement. Right now, we are working on our fractions unit. Please be sure to help your child practice their multiplication facts and encourage them to do their best on all assignments. Please make sure you are signed up for class dojo so that you can receive our weekly math newsletter.

As stated before, we now have Dreambox which is a helpful tool to practice their skills. I ask that you try to get your child to get on the website for at least 20 minutes each week. Thanks for all that you do!

Reading
So far in reading, we have been focusing on informational text (nonfiction). Students had their first 4th grade experiences with synthesizing, text features, text structure, and main idea. This quarter students will be taking their SLO posttest to showcase their learning so far. If you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns, do not hesitate to reach me at aja.cooperlane@pgcps.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Science
In the next quarter, our 4th grade students will continue to learn about Energy transformation by sound, light, heat, and electric currents. They will also define a simple design problem and generate and compare solutions to use patterns to transfer information using engineering design models. Students will be preparing for their SLO posttest.
Fifth Grade News

**Reading/Writing**
- SLO Reading & Writing Winter Post-Test Assessments: February 11 & 12
- Science Literacy Task on Eclipses: February (2 weeks)
- RELA: Quarter 3 Module 2: What a Story “The Miracle of Spring” (Play)

**Social Studies**
- Governing a New Nation

**Overarching Questions:** How did the American Revolution impact America as a new nation? How are governments created, structured, maintained, and changed?

**Enduring Understandings:** People with different viewpoints may need to compromise to reach a common goal. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the rights of citizens and the structure and responsibilities of our government. Leaders affect the way that countries grow and develop. People agree to follow written rules because this helps them to live and work together.

**Math**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Math</th>
<th>Multiplying a unit fraction by a whole number is equivalent to finding a part of the number. Multiplication can be thought of as scaling and can make numbers grow or shrink.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Students think about multiplication of fractions by whole numbers as scaling (growing or shrinking) rather than repeated addition. They use sketches, tape diagrams, and number lines to represent multiplication of fractions by whole numbers in the context of “Alice in Wonderland.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO PREDICT THEN REFLECT/ USING MODELS AS PROOF TO THEIR ANSWERS
- STUDENTS USE CONTEXT CLUES WITHIN MATHEMATICAL QUESTIONING TO FIND THE PROPER PROCEDURE TO FIND THE PRODUCT OR THE QUOTIENT
- STUDENTS (LANGUAGE ARTS) THROUGH MATHEMATICS, EXPLORE THE WORLD OF ALICE AND WONDERLAND

**Science/Health**

**Science:** Students will begin Unit 3 of Life Science. Students will be learning how plants get materials that they need for growth chiefly from air and water, that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction, that matter flows among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment and that energy in animals’ food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.

**Health:** Students are beginning The Great Body Shop Issue for the month of February. Students will be learning the truth About Drugs. Students will be setting goals to protect the body from misuse and abuse of drugs. Reviewing the effects drug use can have on a family and understanding why it is important to talk to an adult you know and trust if you have problems that are hard to handle. We will also be analyzing print and electronic media to determine whether or not they promote the misuse or abuse of drugs.
Counselor’s Corner

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

We are still in our cold weather months, so this is just a friendly reminder to dress your son or daughter in warm uniform clothing as well as a coat and hat. Please reach out to me or the office staff if your son or daughter is in need of a coat or hat. We may be able to assist you. Also, check your child's school supplies and replenish any materials needed for school. We are in the 2nd semester of the school year, by now you should have met with your child's teacher, if not please set up a conference to check on your child's progress.

A few other important reminders:

- Ensure your child is at school regularly and on time
- Send in notes for absences (doctor's note for 3 or more days absent)
- Check SchoolMax weekly
- Have your child read nightly for at least 30 minutes

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure your child's academic success.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Wright

Music – Harmony Highway News

In Vocal & General Music, students are learning about many things such as steady beat, different voices, sight-singing, rhythmic notation, meter, musicals, and so much more.

Harmony Hawks after-school rehearsals are held every Thursday from 2:00-4:00pm. The Harmony Hawks will sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” on the school morning show this Friday, February 28, 2020 for the African-American Schoolwide Celebration.

If you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns feel free to contact me.
Contact Information: (301) 702 – 3800 ext. 54510 / erika.plater@pgcps.org

Mrs. Plater
Vocal & General Music Teacher
Harmony Hawks, Director

** Remind App for all HHES Music Information! **

Use the link to join the HHES Vocal & General Music Group. 
https://www.remind.com/join/hawksmusic
STEM NEWS

The primary and intermediate grade levels are learning Physical Science for the second quarter. Students in intermediate classes have started submitting their questions (problems) which should be approved by the teacher for their STEM Fair Project. The submission of each Science procedure was listed on the timeline provided to the student. Third and fourth grades will be using the backboard to present their projects. The 5th graders will be doing a DIGITAL STEM Fair project. The primary grades will have a class project. The STEM Fair journal was distributed to each student on the third week of November 2019. Guidelines are provided in the journal. Below is the time line for the STEM Fair Project 2019-2020.

STEM Fair Project Timeline 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Teacher Initials</th>
<th>Student Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>12.02.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choosing a Topic</td>
<td>12.06.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question (T. MUST approve the Q)</td>
<td>12.09.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prediction/Hypothesis</td>
<td>12.20.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>01.03.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>01.10.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedures</td>
<td>01.22.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection Tool</td>
<td>02.07.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results: Actual/Investigation-Collected Data</td>
<td>02.21.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results: Graph of Data</td>
<td>02.21.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results: Written Explanation</td>
<td>02.24.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>02.28.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper: 3rd Grade: Summary of the project; 4th-5th: Refer to the format provided in CIM-Science</td>
<td>03.02.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Presentation: 1 day for each class; 3rd &amp; 4th - Traditional; 5th - Digital</td>
<td>03.3-5.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display Board to School: There will be 18 projects to be displayed in the cafeteria. 3 class projects from each PRIMARY grade (K-2) and 9 from Intermediate (3-5)—The Best 3 projects from each grade level.</td>
<td>03.11.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello Families,

Your students are almost finished taking their ACCESS English tests. The results of the student’s tests will arrive near the end of May 2020. I am looking forward to sharing your students' progress with you. Meanwhile, continue reading, writing, and speaking in your native language so your students do not lose the ability to be literate in both languages.

Please note the following dates:

- **February 12, 2020**  Last ESOL ELO session
- **February 17, 2020**  Presidents Day, No School
- **February 18, 2020**  STEM Night 6:00-7:30. Receive individualized support for helping your student complete their STEM Fair Project.

Hola familias

Sus estudiantes casi han terminado de tomar sus exámenes de inglés ACCESS. Los resultados de las pruebas de los estudiantes llegarán cerca de finales de mayo de 2020. Espero compartir el progreso de sus estudiantes con usted. Mientras tanto, continúe leyendo, escribiendo y hablando en su idioma nativo para que sus estudiantes no pierdan la capacidad de leer y escribir en ambos idiomas.

Tenga en cuenta las siguientes fechas:

- **12 de febrero de 2020**  Última sesión de ESOL ELO
- **17 de febrero de 2020**  Día de los Presidentes, no hay clases
- **18 de febrero de 2020**  STEM Night 6: 00-7: 30. Reciba apoyo individualizado para ayudar a su estudiante a completar su Proyecto STEM Fair.
Special Education Department

7 Tips for Improving Your Child’s Homework and Study Skills

Create a Homework Station - Having a place to keep everything your kid needs for homework can help prevent organization issues and homework battles.

Use Checklists - All he needs is a small pad of paper on which he can list his assignments for the day. As he completes each one, he can cross it off the list.

Create a Homework Schedule - A homework schedule can help your child set a specific time for studying (and schedule in breaks between subjects).

Choose and Use a Homework Timer - Homework timers are a great way to help keep an easily distracted child on track. A timer can also give your kid a better sense of time.

Use a Color Coding System - Using colored dot stickers, highlighters, and colored folders and notebooks is a great (and inexpensive) way to keep organized. Ask your child to choose a color for each subject.

Mix It Up a Little - For some kids, studying is tough because they need to learn material in different ways. (draw; sing; acting out; use of manipulatives; videos)

Check In and Check Up - Checking in to see if she needs help or just to let him know you’re around may ease her homework stress.

Data Coach/ Testing Coordinator

MISA (5th): March 24 - 27, 2020

MCAP: April 2020 (Exact Dates TBA)
Hillcrest Heights Elementary School Pledge

We are the Hawks
Each day we soar so high
We come to school to learn
Parents and teachers are filled with pride
Reading, writing, math, we’re getting in the groove
Science, specials, art, we continue to improve

When we leave Hillcrest Heights
We’ve made friends and have a bond
Our teachers helped us grow
Ready for college and beyond

Go Hawks!

Hillcrest Heights Elementary School

4305 22nd Place
Temple Hills, MD 20748
Phone: (301) 702 – 3800
Fax: (301) 702 – 3807
School Hours: 7:45am – 1:55pm
Office Hours: 7:15am – 3:30pm

David Brown, Principal
Sharon McNeil, Assistant Principal