

The Falcon Flier

Together We Empower

Today & Tomorrow

November 26, 2019

Message from Dr. Burks...

Dear Fulton Families,

Since our last newsletter, we have had a lot occur! We celebrated public education through American Education Week, hosted a Drive Through Food Drive, held our 10th Annual Turkey Trot, and are in the process of concluding our fall parent-teacher conferences. We appreciate all of the community support we received throughout all of these events.

Additionally, thank you to those of you who were able to join us last Tuesday at the PTA meeting. During our time together, Mrs. Shields, Ms. Wilson and Mrs. Ranker shared a little about our School-wide Behavior program and 1,2,3 Magic. Be sure to check out the PTA website for the PPT and aligned FAQs.

I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon,

Dr. Burks

Announcements

Hour of Code

The Hour of Code, created by code.org, is a one-hour introduction to computer science to demystify code and show that everyone can learn the basics. All HCPSS schools will be participating in this event in the capacity deemed appropriate for each level. Be on the look out for more information regarding the the of Dec. 9th and the Hour of Code

Weather Reminder

As the cold weather is upon us, we wanted to remind you that we will go outside for recess unless the temperature combined with the wind chill is less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. As such, please remember to dress your child(ren) for outdoor recess.

CoGat Testing

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3 and 5. The CogAT is a group-administered

abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 and 5 will participate in the testing.

3rd Grade testing will be administered Tuesday, December 3rd-5th

5th Grade testing will be administered Monday, December 9th-11th

No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily.

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes. Students' individual scores will be reported to parents in late February/early March.

Young Author's Contest

Who: Students in Grades 1 – 5

What: Write a poem or short story. Entries must be original work.

All entries must use no smaller than 12 point font in Times New Roman or Comic Sans.

Short story entry may range from a minimum of 300 words to no more than 800 words. Poem entry will consist of a single poem, any style from a minimum of 25 words to no more than 150 words.

Entries must not include graphics.

Each entry must include a completed typed Young Authors' Contest Cover Sheet signed by the student author and sponsoring teacher.

Entries due by December 2, 2019 or sooner to Mrs. Menikheim.

DIGITAL RULES: Save the WORD document of your entry. Also save the typed cover sheet electronically. School winners will need to submit these to the county level contest.

News from the Health Room

EXTRA CLOTHING: Please remember to place an extra set of season appropriate clothing in your child's back pack in a bag. We do not have any extra clothes for your child to change into if clothes get soiled from food, liquids, mud, and body fluids. Thank you.

LIP BALM: Cold weather and heated indoors results in chapped lips. The Health Room staff encourage you to give your child with some type of lip balm. Thank you.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: If your child has a fever, actively vomiting, eye or eyes that have drainage, or not acting normally, please keep him/her home. With a fever, we recommend fever free for 24 hours without medication.

Curriculum Corner

English Language Arts

When you were in elementary school do you remember the Friday spelling test? I remember my teacher would give me a list of words to memorize throughout the week and then on Friday, everyone took out a pencil and sheet of paper and wrote them down as my teacher walked around the room calling out the list of words. Sound familiar? Spelling at this time was considered a separate subject and was minimally at all integrated into other subject areas. The research has found this is not an effective practice.

As such, this month, we wanted to share [Why I don't Give a Friday Spelling Test](#), a blogpost in which the author shares why we have moved away from the traditional Friday spelling tests as well as other strategies you may hear your teachers speak about. Additionally, we wanted to share a [website](#) that shares different strategies you can use at home when you are working with your students on spelling.

Math

Our Math Department has created wonderful videos to help us more easily understand the concepts that are being taught to our children. This month, check out two different strategies for adding: [with a numbers chart](#) and on a [number line](#).

Bully Buster Bulletin

Just a reminder: **Helping Hands** gifts are due by December 9, 2019.

Inclusive Schools Week: Monday, December 2nd to Friday, December 6th

- **Mon., Dec. 2-Inclusion Starts with "I"**
 - Pictures taken by the rainbow wall display
- **Tues., Dec. 3-Celebrate Differences/Diversity**
 - Mrs. Shields is going to spin the wheel on the announcements and whatever it lands on, have students explain how we are different but also the same
- **Wed., Dec. 4-Empathy: Walk In My Shoes**
 - Wear tennis shoes
 - For morning work students will be coloring, cutting, and writing on a shoe to tell how you show empathy. The shoes will be displayed on the media center walls.
- **Thurs., Dec. 5-Kindness Compliments**
 - Have students pick a name of 1 student in their class
 - Students will give a verbal or written compliment on a post-it note to that chosen classmate
- **Fri., Dec 6- It Starts with Hello**
 - Free seating at lunch, so students can sit with someone they don't know
 - Start by saying hello and introducing yourself

Counseling Lessons for the month of November/December

In kindergarten, we read the book *Zack Makes Mistakes*. We discussed how it is okay to make mistakes and that mistakes are how we learn. We also discussed negative feelings that can come from making mistakes. We identified things we are good at. First grade students read *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon*. Afterwards, students were measured using measuring tape and asked to share what makes them stand up tall and proud about themselves. Second grade students practiced the **Golden Rule**, treating others the way you want to be treated. They loved the play on words story, *Do Unto Others*, and role played when students say please, I'm sorry, excuse me, and thank you! Third graders read *The Name Jar*. This story is about a girl who is embarrassed by her traditional Korean name. Her classmates create a jar with other names for her to use but eventually, the girl embraces her name and realizes it's ok to be different and diverse. After reading the book, 3rd grade students then put their names in a jar and told the history of their names. In fourth grade, we read *No Excuses!* We discussed how excuses can get in the way of reaching our goals. We talked about how negative words (garbage words) are excuses and positive words (power words) can help us reach our goals. The students created short-term or long-term goals. Fifth graders participated in creating hands for our school-wide Helping Hands for the Holidays initiative, learned the difference between equality & equity and helped create a bank of ideas of differences while playing Wheel of Diversity/Differences during Inclusion Week.

Upcoming

- Nov. 25-Dec. 19 Raize Craze
- Dec. 2- Dec. 6 Inclusive Schools Week
- Dec. 3- Dec. 5 CoGat Testing 3rd Grade
- Dec. 4 SGA Meeting, 8:45 a.m.
1st Gr. Robinson Nature Center (Coletta, Nam, Salzberg, Stamper)
- Dec. 5 1st Gr. Robinson Nature Center (Xia, Ritter, Soloman, Bezy)
- Dec. 9-Dec. 11 CoGat Testing 5th Grade
- Dec. 9-Dec. 13 Hour of Code Week
- Dec. 12 Kdg. Library Trip (Ranker & Kirby)
- Dec. 13 Interim Progress Reports Issued
PTA Meeting/Parent Social, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Winter Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16-Dec.20 SGA Spirit Week
- Dec. 18 SGA Meeting, 8:45 a.m.

Dec. 19 1st Gr. Gingerbread Houses, 9:30 a.m.
 2nd. Gr. Gingerbread Houses, 1:45 p.m.

Dec. 20 Kdg. Gingerbread Houses, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 23- Jan. 1 Schools Closed

[Full Calendar](#)

Connect with our PTA

Our [PTA](#) is a terrific partner to our school. Learn about the many ways they help support Fulton and strengthen our community- as well as how you can get involved.

Provide us Feedback

We always appreciate input on how we can improve. Please share your thoughts and suggestions [here](#). We love to hear from you!