



Tiger Tales



G.C. Hartman Elementary Newsletter



Family and Community Night

This year's family night will be held on Thursday, April 26th. If any organization would like to be a part of this evening, please call the elementary office at (570) 356 - 3250 for more details and to reserve a table for your organization.

Kindergarten Registration

The 2018 - 2019 Kindergarten Registration has already taken place. Please call (570) 356 -3250 to schedule an appointment. We look forward to meeting you!

G.C. Hartman School Picnic

Our school picnic at Knoebel's will be June 4th. H.A.R.T. is graciously sponsoring this event for our children. Any parent who is interested will need their clearances to be able to chaperone. Important information regarding the picnic will be sent home in May.



Preparing for the PSSA



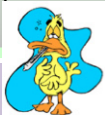
Our third and fourth grade students will be taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) The English Language Arts portion will be given April 9th - 13th, the Math will be administered April 16th - 20th and the fourth grade Science PSSA will be taken April 23rd and April 27th. The students have been working hard all year and are ready to show how much they have learned! As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child prepare for the testing days. A positive attitude goes a long way toward any success in life.

Here are some other ways you can help your child do their best:

- 1) Ensure that your child goes to bed early and gets a good night's sleep every evening.
- 2) Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast and brings in a healthy snack.
- 3) Make sure your child attends school every day and is on time.
- 4) Talk to your child about the importance of taking their time and trying their best.
- 5) Most importantly, be positive! Remind them how ready they are and if they try their best. they will be successful!

Reminder from the Cafeteria

As the end of the year quickly approaches, PLEASE make sure that your child's lunch account is up-to-date. Thank you for your cooperation!



Spring Fever?

As the end of the school year approaches, some students may experience spring fever. The 4th marking period can be difficult for some students who may be thinking the school year is over.

Please encourage your child to finish this school year on a positive note, so that they could end the year with outstanding progress.



Mark Your Calendar

- April 4th - HART Meeting at 6:00 in the library
- April 12th - Report Cards go home
- April 9th - 13th - 3rd and 4th Grade ELA PSSA
- April 16th - 20th - 3rd and 4th Grade Math PSSA
- April 26th - Family and Community Night & Book Fair
- April 23rd - April 27th - 4th Grade Science PSSA

(Please check the website for additions and/or changes.)

Miscellaneous

The Lost and Found is getting full. If your child is missing anything, please remind them to look through these items.

We will be developing class lists for the upcoming 2018 - 2019 school year in May. Information concerning the placements of our children can be found on the last page of the Newsletter.

Keep up to date on the happenings within our school at:

www.scasd.us

Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Yes! We are now enjoying some warmer weather and get to visit our playground regularly. Please make sure your child is dressed to enjoy outdoor play. Sneakers are best!

Our first reading theme of the month is titled: I Can Do Anything. Our stories include actions as well as activities that our kindergarteners can do and enjoy. Next, we'll spend time reading stories about bears. We will continue to stress the importance of reading comprehension. A key skill for students is to be able to read a book on their level and then be able to orally retell a story in sequential order that includes identifying characters and settings. Our word families will continue to grow as we practice how to read, spell, and write words that rhyme with **-and** and **-ot**.

In phonics, we will learn the long sound of vowels and start to work on diagraphs (two letters that come together to make one sound). The diagraphs we will practice are ck, sh, and th. My Pal Bo and Will She Tell? are the two decodable readers this month. Please allow your child to read these stories to you and then retell the story events in sequential order.

Discussing how we put together (+) and take apart (-) objects will be a key focus this month in math. We will use manipulatives to practice addition and subtraction stories. Additionally, we will practice writing number sentences in our math workbooks. Students will continue to explore ways to classify and compare objects. Place value and estimation will be new concepts that will be introduced.

Be sure to stop by the kindergarten area on Family & Community Night (April 26th) to see some of the projects and activities that your child participated in during our second science kit: Wood and Paper.



As noted in last month's newsletter, Master Naturalist, Michele Richards-Williams (and Mchaela's mom), are helping us plan a Nature Day for our students. On this day, students will be participating in outdoor educational activities for the entire day. Our Nature Day is scheduled in the beginning of May. Soon, first grade parents will be receiving more information about this special day.

Also, our end of the year field trip has been planned for May 18th. We will be travelling to Hershey where will visit Hershey Zoo in the morning and then have lunch and take the tour at Chocolate in the afternoon.

Language Arts

With the help and guidance of the teachers, students will begin to ask each other more in-depth questions about what they are reading. Students will learn how to write an opinion paragraph as well as continue to write narrative and informational paragraphs. Students will also start comparing/contrasting two similar books using Venn Diagrams.

Mathematics

In math, students are looking at 2-D figures, using doubles to help them figure out other fact problems and telling time to the hour and ½ hour.

The first grade teachers wish to thank all of the first grade families for their continued support and remind them to listen to their child read every night!

Our Spring Book Fair is Coming!

Our Spring Book Fair will be held in April and during Family and Community Night) in the elementary library. All students will be scheduled to visit the book fair, most during their regularly scheduled library classes. A flyer with a schedule and more information about the fair will be sent home soon.

We need help from volunteers to help make our Book Fair successful.

Thanks so much for encouraging our students' love of reading!



Welcome to the muddy days of April! The year is beginning to wind down as we enter our last marking period. We want to remind you to send in slippers or alternate footwear for your child to wear in the classrooms we don't bring all the playground mud in our rooms.

In Math we have begun Unit 8, which introduces 2 and 3 dimensional shapes as well as begins to look at arrays and equal groups as a foundation for multiplication. This should be a fun and interesting unit for all of us.

We are wrapping up our Light and Sound unit in Science. We can't wait to see the creativity in the musical instruments that the students will bring in and demonstrate. The instruments will be on display at The Family Science and Community night here at the Elementary school on Thursday, April 26th. Next we will be exploring the world of insects.

Yes, we still teach cursive writing and we are already introducing the lowercase letters. The children have been eagerly awaiting this!

Thanks to all of you families at home for working so hard with your kiddos! We appreciate it!



Third Grade News

We are ready!! Students have been very busy preparing for the upcoming PSSA testing. Our goal is to help them become comfortable with the types of questions they will be presented with on the test, and help relieve nerves and anxiety, as this is the first time the students will take this type of test. PSSA testing will take place the weeks of April 9-13th, and April 16-20th.

Language Arts: Third grade students will be working on career projects during the fourth marking period. They will be researching a career and developing a report on their chosen career. Students will be working on this in the classroom. Students will also be learning about myths and fables during their language arts time. Students were given the final book project. The project is due back to school by April 30th.

Math: Our math lessons will focus on fractions and mixed numbers. Students are encouraged to keep practicing their math facts.

Science: We will continue to study the Solar System and then Rocks and Minerals in our science kits. Students will present projects on the body systems for Family Night in April.

During PSSA testing students will not have homework assignments

Fourth Grade

In math we're continuing working in Unit 7, Multiplication of a Fraction by a Whole Number; Measurement where students formalize their understanding of multiplying a fraction by a whole number and use this knowledge to solve problems in real-world scenarios. Next, in Unit 8, Fraction Operations; Applications, students apply their knowledge of fractions, number concepts, patterns, and geometry to different real-world scenarios.

In social studies, we're studying the Middle West Region learning about its unique geography, climate, important resources such as iron. Next, we'll go onto the Southwest Region learning about its natural features, how its climate affects life in the region, and important resources such as petroleum.

We'll also devote time in preparation for the upcoming PSSA test. In ELA in Fourth grade we'll be starting Modules 6 & 7 in PA Common Core. In writing we'll be working on writing dialogue in stories and continue to work on opinion pieces. In reading we'll be reading narrative & informational text types & gathering evidence to support facts & details. Also working on the skills of writer's purpose & logical order. We will continue to practice editing and spelling too.



There is one month left! If you haven't already done so, please turn in required Dental exams for Kindergarten and 3rd grade students and physical exams for Kindergarten students. They are due before May 2nd or your child will not be able to participate in end of year activities. Any questions or concerns, contact Mrs. Spade at 356-3253 or aspade@scasd.us.

G.C. Hartman Elementary School Class Placement



The class placement process begins in April and extends through the last day of the school year. Classroom teachers, our guidance counselor, special educators, and administrators work collaboratively to ensure the very best composition of classes for the upcoming school year. Parents may participate in the placements by submitting letters that provide specific information about the learning style and needs of their child or children. Parent input is valued and given consideration throughout the rigorous placement procedure.

Parents who wish to participate in the class placement process may do so by submitting a letter to the principal by April 27th of each school year. The following paragraphs are intended to support parents in providing information that will assist placement teams as they strive to ensure the best placement for every student.

The overarching goal of the placement process is to create classes that support the learning and well-being of all students. Given that this is a child-centered process, parent letters should focus on providing the placement team with specific information pertaining to their children.

Parents/Guardians who wish to participate in the class placement process may do so by submitting a letter to the principal by April 27th. **We are interested in learning specific information pertaining to placing your child as opposed to receiving requests for specific teachers.** We ask that you submit these thoughts in writing prior to April 27th in order to help us with our placements. This information will remain confidential and will be considered by administration. With our priority of "balanced" classrooms, we ask that you do not place restraints on the process by requesting specific teachers by name; we cannot honor specific teacher requests. However, if you do have special circumstances, such as your child needs to be separated from another student, your child has special learning needs, or you have past experience with a staff member, please include this information in your letter to the principal so they may be considered. **Unfortunately letters received after April 27th will not be accepted because of the tight timeline of the placement process.**

Every child is unique and brings specific needs and characteristics to the classroom. Creating balanced classrooms that maximize the experience and learning of all students is the top priority for the G.C. Hartman faculty. To facilitate effective balancing, many variables and factors are considered when creating classes. The following list details some of the criteria by which every proposed class list is reviewed and revised:

- ☐ Kindergarten screening results (Kindergarten placements only)
- ☐ Reading/ELA and Math Performance
- ☐ Organizational needs
- ☐ CST Referral (Child Study Team)
- ☐ IEP (Individual Education Plan)
- ☐ 504 Accommodation Plan
- ☐ Guidance Services
- ☐ Medical needs
- ☐ Behavioral and Social/Emotional needs
- ☐ Gender