



Tiger Tales



G.C. Hartman Elementary Newsletter

Dear G.C. Hartman Families,

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through the school year. Hopefully, spring is right around the corner and we will be able to open our windows and breathe some fresh, *warm* air. Better yet, it will be great for our children to be able to go outside for some fresh air and exercise. Can you believe that during this upcoming month, we will be celebrating the 100th Day of School? It doesn't seem possible that we have already passed through that many days and are already more than halfway through the school year. I am sure if you looked back on what the first 100 days have added to your child's learning experience, you would be able to name things like:

- My child has learned to read!
- My child has mastered their addition, subtraction, multiplication or division facts.
- My child has made some great new friends!
- My child has navigated some challenging social situations.
- My kindergartener knows how to count to 100 in many different ways!
- My child has learned more about reading non-fiction text selections.
- My kindergartener and first grader has mastered many sight words.
- My child has had fun in school!

What would you add to this list? Ask your child what their favorite new thing to learn has been this year so far. The most important idea about all of these learning accomplishments is that they couldn't have happened in isolation in each individual classroom, but took the collaboration of teachers, support staff, parents, and your children. The learning that goes on each and every day in school is, and should be, a collaborative effort. The more teamwork that occurs, the better off our children will be. We appreciate you collaborating with us along your child's educational journey! Thank you for your support!

Although we have had a great first half of school this year, I feel that we can make the second half even better. With our partnership with you we know that our children perform much better at school. Here are some tips for how to assist your child at home with learning the basic skills needed for success in reading, writing and math.

- Have your child read or be read to at home at least 20 minutes a day. Having your child practice reading out loud will assist with their fluency.
- Vary the text your child reads using chapter books, news articles, and other interesting texts to increase your child's engagement.
- After reading, ask your child questions about what he/she has read.
- Have your children practice counting. Play games with your child that encourages them to count out objects.
- Our younger grade leveled children should practice and master their addition and subtraction facts. Once they are mastered have them practice and memorize their multiplication and division facts. Flash cards and games online can be a good way to build math fluency. We want all children to know these facts automatically.
- Another great way to help our children is to create fun opportunities for them to write.

I am sure that the list of accomplishments already attained by your children will continue to grow as we move through February and throughout the second half of the school year. Please know that the staff is always available to answer your questions, assist in whatever ways we can, and to support your children.

Let's continue to work together to make it a great month for our children!

Sincerely,
John C. Fetterman

Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Wow! We're already into the second month of 2018. The beginning of this month will be an exciting time for your child as we celebrate the 100th day of school. Students will be allowed to share collections of 100 objects with peers on this special day as well as participate in many fun activities. (A note with more details will be sent home soon.) In the middle of the month, we will get a chance to practice writing names as we share valentines with our classmates. By the way, Happy Valentine's Day to you and your family. As February is the month of love, we will be focusing on our love of reading and more directly our love for reading the kindergarten word wall words by heart. Please help your child practice the word list provided by his or her teacher nightly until all words are read with ease. Additionally, when relatives or guests are visiting encourage them to read with your child and listen to your child read. When this happens, it emphasizes the importance of reading and creates a special bonding time for those involved. Consequently, in our classroom this month, we will read the following stories: Ira Sleeps Over, Where Does the Brown Bear Go? & Golden Bear. Continuing skills of focus are: identifying characters and settings, sequencing story events, and recognizing and producing rhyming words. We will learn how to read, spell, and write words that rhyme with -ug.

In phonics, the letters Ee, Yy, Dd, & Vv will officially be taught. Ben is Ten and I Did It are our 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 what attributes we use to compare objects will be a key skill in math this month. We will talk about height and length repeatedly. Next, we will use manipulatives to figure out what happens when we put together (+) and take away (-) objects. Plus, we will write basic addition and subtraction number sentences to match stories told.

February may be the shortest month, but Second Grade has lots to do! Here's hoping we can avoid too much snow. Speaking of snow, when we are able to go out to recess and there is snow on the ground, naturally the children do want to play in it. We have talked with all of second grade and have made it very clear that they may play in the snow IF they have all of the following:

Snow boots (and an alternate pair of shoes/slippers to wear inside the school)

Snow pants that go over their day clothes,

Winter coat

Gloves/mittens

It's an all or nothing situation. The nurse's office is not set up to hand out dry clothing to children who go in the snow unprepared and get their school clothes wet and un-wearable.

One area that many of our students have shown a need for more direction and practice is in test taking. This was evident on many report cards this last marking period. We will put increased effort into working with our students on test taking strategies. As second graders take more assessments in all areas of the curriculum, they need to be able to read the questions asked and look for the best answer. In Reading Comprehension pieces they will be learning to go back to the story for evidence to support their



Reading- In reading we are working on identifying text features, such as; bold print, glossary, index, captions, labels, pictures and table of content. We will continue to teach proper retell techniques to enhance comprehension and identify fiction from non-fiction.

Grammar- We are currently expecting correct capitalization of dates, names and places, as well as using commas correctly in dates and words in a series. Suffix endings s, ed and ing will be a new focus this month.

Writing- Students will be writing informational and narrative pieces that contain feelings and a variety of word choice. Students will be introduced to opinion writing in the upcoming weeks.

Math- We will continue to write numbers to represent the base ten blocks, comparison numbers, story problems, and addition facts.

Socially- At this point in the year teachers are expecting students to work more independently, tie their own shoes, show less impulsive behaviors and continue showing growth in responsible actions with daily routines.

Reminders:

*Nightly reading is critical to promote consistency and practice reading skills.

*The weather is inconsistent so please help your child dress appropriately each day. Many children are not dressed in clothes/coats that are winter recess friendly.



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(Second Grade Continued)

answers. A new skill that they also will be working on is how to infer what the author is saying when the answer isn't always obvious.

As the 3rd marking period moves along we will begin our persuasive writing unit. Look for your children to explain to you what OREO means (and no, we don't mean the cookie!) The children will be learning the difference between fact and opinion and how that affects a persuasive argument.

We will be starting our Light and Sound Unit in Science. This is always an interesting time with the boys and girls. They will be having fun learning about reflection, refraction, and the various types of light, as well as explore the ways sound moves and changes. Keep your eyes open for the information on the final project which will be done at home and then brought to school.

Our 6th Unit in the Everyday Math Series will be emphasizing whole number operations, including one and two-step number stories (those test taking strategies will help them master these!) and double digit addition and subtraction. Our fact sheets will continue with subtraction, addition and the Fact assessments will include both addition AND subtraction. Mastering their addition and subtraction facts is the foundation for the increasing expectations of the math curriculum.

Since February is Dental Health and Heart Month, we plan to fit in some activities touching on these topics as well. Of course we will be celebrating Valentines Day. We are asking the 2nd graders to make their own Valentine boxes at home and bring them to school between the 10th and 12th of the month. Class lists have been sent home already to give them time to work on addressing cards.
~Stay warm and look for more sunny days to come!

Third Grade News

Language Arts: Students will be working on understanding the author's purpose of text. We will focus on singular and plural nouns during our grammar time.

Please continue to review the robust vocabulary words with your child nightly at home. They are to be using the words in communication with you at home. Our focus strategy for the month will be asking questions when reading. Our writing focus this month will be persuasive writing.

Math: We will begin unit 5- we will be focusing on fractions with this unit. Our areas of study will focus on representing fractions using pictures, representing fractions showing equivalent parts, and creating equal groups by finding common multiples.

Social Studies: We will begin Chapter six in our Pennsylvania book. This chapter will be broken up into two parts. We will study lessons 1 and 2, and then test. We will then study lessons 3 and 4, and then test.

Fourth Grade

In math, we're finishing Unit 5 - "Fractions & Mixed Number Computation: Measurement." From there, we'll begin Unit 6 - "Division; Angles" in which students explore the relationship between multiplication and division by developing a method for dividing whole numbers and solving division number stories. They are introduced to protractors and explore using them to measure and construct angles.

In science, we're finishing up our Electricity Module. From there, we'll begin social studies; learning about The Middle West Region. In this unit, we'll learn many interesting facts, the region's unique geography, how the region's climate is affected by its location, and iron being a very important resource.

FEBRUARY



Mark Your Calendar

(Please check the website at www.scasd.us for additions and/or changes.)

February 2nd - Spirit Day - Wear your favorite Team Jersey

February 7th - HART Meeting at 6:00 in Elementary Library

February 19th - Non-instructional Day - No School for Students