



Tiger Tales



G.C. Hartman Elementary Newsletter



Dear G.C. Hartman Families,

Welcome to March! We may have a few more snowflakes ahead of us, but Spring is coming soon, although the recent snow days, delays and early dismissals would tend to say otherwise. I am pretty sure all of us are looking forward to the warm weather and our children are anxious to get back outside for recess. It is hard to believe it is already March and we are down to only three months left in this school year. This year seems to be flying by.

The end of March and the start of April also means students are almost ready to begin the final marking period. Your children have grown so much since the start of the school year back in August. The effort and excitement shown by them during the school year has been wonderful to observe. It has been a pleasure seeing your children throughout their school day. I encourage all parents and families to continue encouraging and assisting in the development of your child's academic skills. What a better way to prepare them for their future as they will benefit from all of your time and effort academically and you will also build many fond family memories.

Our third and fourth grade students and teachers are also working very hard to get ready for the upcoming PSSA tests that will be taking place in April. As you know, each third and fourth grade student will take the reading/ELA and Mathematics tests and fourth grade will be assessed with the science PSSA. Our staff is working very hard to provide each of our children with the knowledge and confidence needed to be successful. We also realize that our dedicated parents are busy at home preparing their children as well! Thank you for being involved and supporting your children with their academics.

Please remember to ask you child to visit our lost and found area at school if they are missing any clothing or other items. If you have changed your phone number, it is important that you take time to provide the office with these updates in case we need to contact you. Be sure to review the school rules with your child. As always, we want all of our students to make smart and safe choices as they get ready for the end of the school year. Thank you again for your support, time and effort and let's continue to work together to make March a great month for all of our children!



Sincerely,
John C. Fetterman

Kindergarten News

It's amazing how time flies! February is over and hopefully so is the cold weather. Let's hope spring arrives soon with some warmer days. Between Day 100, snow days, and Valentine's Day we had an extremely busy month! The highlight of the month was sharing our 100 day collections. Thank you so much for your generous donations! We were able to send over 100 canned goods to a local food bank. Additionally, thank you so much for helping your child practice reading our kindergarten word wall words. Please continue to help your child study the words he or she has not mastered. Being able to quickly read our word wall words not only helps your child read books, but it aids in building confidence during kid writing! Kindergarteners enjoy spelling words and are always thrilled when they can write a word super fast without even looking at the classroom word wall.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss. We will begin March by reading lots and lots of Dr. Seuss books and participating in several fun activities as we celebrate "Read Across America" week. Next, we'll complete two of our language arts themes reading stories about friends and pets. Identifying characters and settings, sequencing story events, and recognizing and producing rhyming words will continue to be the main skills we work on this month. Our word families will grow as we learn how to read, spell, and write words that rhyme with **-ig**, **-it**, and **-et**.

In phonics we will finish the alphabet by working on letters Jj, Xx, Ww, and Qq. Pig's Jet and Spin to Win 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.

Naming and describing 2-dimensional shapes as well as 3-dimensional shapes will be a key focus in math this month. We will also continue learning about height and length. Plus, we will continue to work on number stories with symbols (+ - =). Be sure to ask your child about the Growing and Disappearing Train game that we play.



Seuss Week. Each day the students will be involved in a Dr. Seuss related activity that promotes reading. This week shines light on the enjoyment of reading and creativity.

In math students will continue to work on two digit number stories with two and three addends, addition doubles, making 10 by adding and subtracting, place value, multi-step number stories, using pennies, dimes and dollars for learn place value and creating shapes with given attributes.

Students will continue reading and comparing grade-level fiction and nonfiction texts. While earlier in the year the teacher asked the students about the text, students are now encouraged to ask each other questions about what they've read. Students have been learning to write both narrative and informative paragraphs and will soon learn how to write an opinion paragraph.

Michaela's mom, Michelle Richards-Williams, is planning a Nature Day for all of the students to participate in May. Soon, you will receive more information about this special day - we will need some parent help to make this day a success!



Mark Your Calendar

February 26th - March 2nd - Dr. Seuss Week
March 7th - HART Meeting at 6:00 in the library
March 7th - Third Marking Period Progress Reports
March 16th - High School Presentation of Shrek
March 19th - 23rd - Kindergarten Registration
March 29th - April 2nd - Spring Break No School



Second Grade News

In like a lion and out like a lamb!! Hopefully we are done with these frigid temperatures and can look forward to spring. These snow days and delays have really slowed us down. We have a lot of catching up to do! When we do get back to outside recess, there will be an abundance of snow/mud on the playground. Please send some alternate footwear for your child in case they get "mudded up" during recess.

The first week of March is always a fun time as we celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America. Encourage your child to read some extra fun stories that week as we enjoy our activities planned here at school.

We will be starting our next unit in EveryDay Math. This will include more measurement and data collection strategies. We will also begin exploring multiplying by 10 as well as adding with three or more addends. Reading and creating graphs will also be part of our lessons.

Our Light and Sound Unit in Science will be completed in March. We will be sending home a paper soon about our culminating project to this unit. You will have fun helping your child with this one!



Third Grade News

Language Arts: Students will continue preparing for the PSSA testing in April. We are concentrating on myths, fables, the central message, personification, context clues, and grammar review. Students will complete the ELA testing of the PSSA the week of April 9th - 13th. We are also working on writing informative and opinion writing pieces.

Math: Students are busy preparing for the PSSA testing. Math testing of the PSSA will be April 16th - 20th. Please continue to review multiplication and division facts with your child at home. We will focus this month on fractions, decimals, line segments, and angles.

Science: Students will be studying the Solar System.

Please remember to sign reading logs nightly



Fourth Grade

In math, we will be working in Unit 7 - "Fractions and Their Uses; Chance and Probability" reviewing fractions as parts of a whole (ONE), fractions on number lines, and uses of fractions. Order fractions and find fractional parts of sets and regions, identifying equivalent fractions, basic ideas of probability, comparing predicted and actual results, and guiding the application of fractions to chance experiments. In Unit 8 - "Perimeter and Area" we'll be reviewing perimeter and area concepts, develop formulas as mathematical models for the areas of rectangles, parallelograms, and triangles. Exploring applications of area with scale drawings.

In science, we'll be working in the "Electricity" module learning about what electricity can do, looking at circuits, building circuits, and finding out what's wrong with a circuit. From there, we'll be exploring conductors and insulators, making a filament, working with hidden circuits, and deciphering an electrician's secret language. Students will put together series and parallel circuits, making switches, constructing a working flashlight, learning what a diode is, and constructing the room of a house complete with wiring and lighting.

In the fourth grade ELA classes we're continuing to work on improving our editing skills in Daily Oral Language in the areas of Spelling, Punctuation Grammar & usage, and Capitalization. In Writing we're working on Opinion pieces and learning how to support our ideas & viewpoints. In Reading we're working on integrating information from two or more texts on the same topic; comparing & contrasting events being told from two different points of view; cause & effect; and writer's purpose.

