



# Tiger Tales



G.C. Hartman Elementary Newsletter



Dear G.C. Hartman Families,

Welcome to March! I am hopeful that the snowflakes are behind us and Spring is coming soon. 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 your 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

# Classroom News

## Kindergarten News

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss. Please see your monthly calendar to "dress" your child during the first week in March as we celebrate "Read Across America" week. Our first reading theme of the month is titled Let's Be Friends. We will read some great stories and share ideas about friendship. Plus, we will continue to stress the importance of identifying characters, settings, and story comprehension. Next, we'll spend time reading stories about Pets. While learning about pets we will study animals as well; discussing how they move and their variety of coverings. Additionally, we will recognize and produce rhyming words. 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.



Fourth graders have been working on basketball and practicing for the gym show which will be March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Third graders have been learning how to play basketball. Next they will learn scarf juggling.

Second graders have been working on striking skills. They will be learning how to play kickball beginning in March.

Kindergarten and first grade students have been working on basic skills. First graders have also been practicing for their gym show which will be on April 6<sup>th</sup>.



First grade students are looking forward to Dr. 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

March 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Read Across America Week

March 1<sup>st</sup> - HART Meeting 6:00 Elementary Library

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Spring Pictures

March 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fourth Grade Gym Show

March 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> - Kindergarten Registration

March 28<sup>th</sup> - End of Third Marking Period

### March

In like a lion,  
out like a lamb!





In like a lion and out like a lamb!! Hopefully we are done with these frigid temperatures and can look forward to spring. When we do get back to outside recess, there will be an abundance of 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!



**Language Arts:** We will complete Theme 3 in Story Town. We have been reading nonfiction stories and discussing the author's purpose for writing. We have also been working on nouns and pronouns within each story. We are also busy preparing for the upcoming PSSA's.

**Writing:** We are working on writing persuasive stories. Our focus is writing 4 well developed paragraphs. The students are doing a great job!

**Math:** We will begin our next unit of study on fractions and measuring. Concepts we will work on this unit include: volume, exploring arrays, and equal shares, number stories with measures, fraction number lines, comparing fractions, and fraction number stories. Students are also busy preparing for the upcoming PSSA's.

**Social Studies:** We are studying the Constitution.  
Science: We are studying the Solar System.

**Please keep in mind that PSSA's are the weeks of April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, and April 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Our testing will take place in the morning on these days. It is very important that your child is at school. If possible, please schedule all appointments in the afternoon. Thank you!!**



In math we'll be working in Unit 6; "Division; Angles" in which students explore the relationship between multiplication and division by developing a method for dividing whole number stories. They are introduced to protractors and explore using them to measure and construct angles. From there, we'll go into 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 situation.

In science, we'll be studying "Ecosystems" in which we'll learn what is an ecosystem, living and nonliving things, how plants and animals get their energy, and food chains and food webs. Afterwards, we'll begin learning about the "Middle West" in social studies. In this chapter, we'll discuss the geography of this area, how the middle west's location affects its climate, and iron being an important resource.

Students will continue working with the reading comprehension skills of author's purpose, comparing and contrasting, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, identifying facts and opinions in text, and cause and effect relationships. Additionally, students will continue learning about nouns and pronouns. They will also be working on the different elements of figurative language: alliteration, idioms, metaphors, and similes.

In writing, students will be able to read expository texts and fictional stories, and write a response to demonstrate their comprehension.

