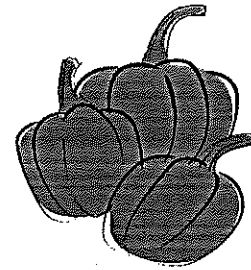


General News.....

November 2023



The Principal's Message

Greetings Parents, Students and Staff,

The month of October was absolutely amazing at PHES. We had so many activities geared toward increasing student engagement to encourage students' independence and increase their overall academic achievement. We are so PROUD of our PHES Generals!!

Special shoutout to PHES PTA! The Trunk-Or-Treat was a real treat for our families. Congratulations to the following winners: Ms. Whittington (Pumpkin Contest) and the Scooby Doo & Mystery Machine Contestant (Car Decoration Contest). Job well done Ms. Whittington and owners of the Scooby Doo & Mystery Machine.

During the summer, we developed our School Improvement Goals for academics, attendance, and behaviors. We are PROUD to report 94.48% of our students attended school each day during the month of September and 95.38% during the month of October. This is a remarkable increase from last school year's overall attendance which was 78% as noted in our June 6, 2023, data report. Way to Go PHES!!

In closing, please remember our school doors are always open for you to visit, collaborate and volunteer. We are better "Together"!!!

Your partner in education,

Selecia Hardy, Principal

Date	Event
November 2	Sneaker Ball from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
November 6	PBIS Celebration at 1:20 pm
November 10	Veterans Day Assembly at 8:15 am
November 13-17	American Education Week
November 17	1 st Quarter Awards Assemblies: Grades 1 & 2 - 8:00 am and Grades 3, 4 & 5 - 9:15 am
November 20 -21	Parent / Teacher Conferences
November 22-24	No School – Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27	Student of the Month Breakfast @ 7:45 am

Happy Thanksgiving!





MS. JOHNSON'S

Assistant Principal's Corner

OCTOBER 2023

Emergency Weather Drills

This month, we practiced our Tornado Shelter-in-Place and Earthquake drills with students. Please make sure to have a family plan to address when weather emergencies happen in our area. Please plan what you will do now to prepare, so you will be able to protect yourself/family and then recover quickly if it happens.

Code of Student Conduct

Pershing Hill Elementary will continue to embrace Restorative Practices in response to violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Please remember the expectation is always for students to repair harm done, restore relationships, and create a pathway back to the classroom.

COGAT TESTING (2ND GRADE AND 5TH GRADE STUDENTS)

This fall, all Anne Arundel County Public Schools second and fifth graders will take the online version of the Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®). CogAT® measures students' learned reasoning abilities in the three areas most closely related to success in school: reasoning with verbal, quantitative, and spatial concepts. Please see the attached reminder with specific grade-level testing dates.

Native American Heritage Month

I will showcase a book every month that celebrates inclusion and diversity.

"Mamma, Do You Love Me?"

by: Barbara Joosse



CONTACT:

CHANTE' JOHNSON

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PERSHING HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CRJOHNSONI@AACPS.ORG

410-222-6519

November 2023

Penny Reisler, Principal's Secretary
preisler@aacps.org

Debbie McAlvanah, Secretary
dmcalvanah@aacps.org

Notes from the Office

Early Dismissal / Change in Dismissal -- All Early Dismissals or Change in Dismissals must be done prior to 2:00 PM

Late Arrival -- Any arrival after school begins at 8:00 AM, is considered tardy. **You must bring your student into office to sign them in.**

Absences -- Absences can either be reported through the Parent Portal Account or a note can be sent in with the student when they return to school. Emails and phone calls are not accepted. Please note that reporting the absences does not automatically update the attendance and does not stop the AACPS generated attendance calls. Attendance is a manual process and is done throughout the day.

Visitors Pass -- All visitors must check in through the office. A Driver's License or State Issued ID is required. Military ID's cannot be scanned into the Visitor System.

Chromebooks -- ALL students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are expected to bring their chromebooks to and from school daily. While we do have loaners available, it is not a guarantee that we will always have enough loaners available.





Pershing Hill PTA

The PTA would like to give a huge shoutout to our families for contributing their time and efforts this last month. We are appreciative to our family's participation in our MOD Pizza Spirit Night. November's spirit night will be held on November 4th from 4pm to 8pm at the Chipotle in Hanover.

Our teachers and staff are appreciative to all those who donated food and beverages to our October Unity Day staff brunch. We greatly appreciate everyone's continued support for our teachers and staff.

We also had a wonderful turn out at this year's Trunk or Treat. Thank you to all our amazing families for donating candy, as well as your time. The trunks looked amazing, and our PHES Students and families had a blast!

Our spirit wear shop closed last month, thank you for all those who purchased gear with this year's winning design. Orders should go home mid to end of November.

Please join us at our next PTA meeting on November 14th at 6:00pm in the cafeteria.

Box Tops

You can also support Pershing Hill by uploading your grocery receipts to the Box Top app.

Get Active in the PTA: You can sign up to be a member of the PTA by submitting a PTA form, along with \$5 membership dues paid by cash, check, or Zelle (pershinghillmdpta@gmail.com)

Got questions? Contact us at PershinghillMDPTA@gmail.com



First Grade Team Newsletter

Mrs. Noel nanoel@aacps.org

Mrs. Tibbetts ktibbetts@aacps.org

Ms. Gruss cgruss@aacps.org

Mrs. Graham tjgraham@aacps.org

Ms. O'Connell mvoconnell@aacps.org



Instructional Focus for the Month of November:

Writing: We will start Unit II: Teaching Books. We will research turkeys and penguins as we learn how to start with a topic sentence and end with a clincher.

Social Studies: We will embark on our Design Dilemma Unit. Students will tap into their problem solving skills and discover ways to be resourceful!

Explicit Comprehension: Students will continue to practice retelling stories by including key details such as the characters, setting, events, problem, and solution. Also, students will develop skills to find the meaning of unfamiliar words in a text, describe character feelings, and read with expression.

Foundations: We will learn and apply grade-level phonics and word skills when decoding words.

Math: Students develop concepts of addition within 20 through finding sums, using various strategies. Students use number lines, counters, ten-frames, connecting cubes, and number bonds to model the addition process while learning these strategies.

Reminders:

Please read with your child each evening and practice sight words.

Also, practice addition facts through 10. Flashcards will help improve fluency.

2nd Grade November

●●●●● NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Please be sure to have your child bring their take home folder home and back to school daily!
- It's getting chilly out- please make sure to label your child's jackets incase it gets misplaced!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 20+21- Parent Conferences
- Nov. 20-24th- Schools closed
2nd Grade Contacts

Ms. DeCrispino-

mdecrispino@aacps.org

Ms. House- chouse@aacps.org

Mr. Das- sdas@aacps.org

Mrs. Smith- tasmith5@aacps.org

Mrs. Carter- ncarter@aacps.org

Mrs. Hawkins- Khawkins@aacps.org

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Math: Solving and representing Add to and Take From problems, solving two-step problems with comparisons, decomposing and adding 2 digit numbers.

Reading: Fiction- Understanding the plot and structure of a story, identifying character traits.. Nonfiction- Knowing and understanding text features, responding to a prompt using RUNOV.

Writing: Information Writing

Science/Social Studies: We are Digitally Empowered Learners

NOVEMBER

Third Grade



Learning Focus

Reading: This month we will be continuing to explore main idea by understanding text evidence and using organizers to help map out our thinking.

Writing: With the new marking period, we will be starting a new writing unit. Writing to inform. Students will be researching topics, and writing nonfiction informational pieces.

Math: This month we will be taking what we have learned about multiplication and use it to describe patterns we find with products based on their factors. We will also be learning a few more multiplication strategies.

Science: In the new marking period science will start with looking at life cycles of plants, beetles, and frogs.

Social Studies: In the next marking period, in social studies, students will look at different communities and why people move. Students will also begin researching different elements of culture.



Contact Info

Kayla Clements

Krclements@aacps.org

Loren Pardoe

lpardoe@aacps.org

Katie Scott

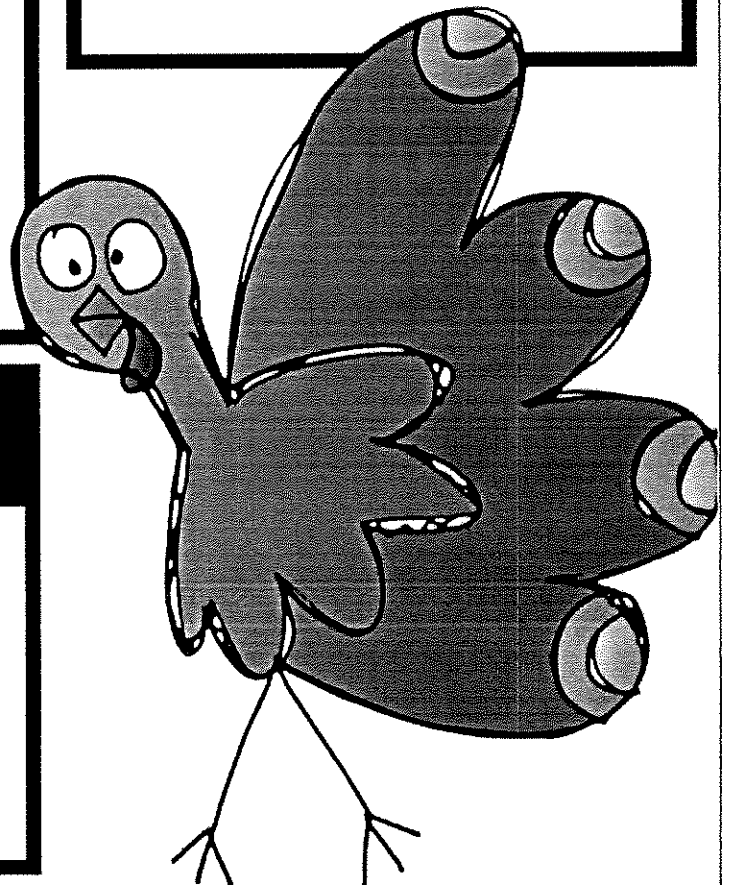
Kescott@aacps.org

Sophie Taylor

smtaylor4@aacps.org

Reminders

Parent conference will be held on Nov. 20th and 21st. We look forward to seeing you!



Fourth Grade

NEWSLETTER

Reminders:

November 1st: No School for Students

November 20/21: Fall Break - No School for Students

November 27: Students return to school

*Please make sure to check purple take home folders and empty them of any papers.

What are we learning?

Reading: Nonfiction Focus

We will be focusing on the following skills.

- Understanding the main idea of a text and providing details that support the main idea.
- Describing text structures
- Summarizing with details.

Writing:

We will be formatting questions for research and using the facts we gather to write an informational piece.

Math:

We will be covering the following skills:

- Factors and multiples
- Prime and composite numbers
- Finding and analyzing patterns
- Multiplying numbers (single by single, single by double, single by triple and double digits.

Science:

We will be working on understanding landforms and the outrageous acts found on earth (extreme features, weather, etc.)

Social Studies:

We will be learning about early colonization with a focus on the Jamestown, Plymouth, St. Augustine, and St. Mary's cities. Then we will explore the other 13 colonies.

Contact Info:

Mrs. Corcoran: alcorcoran@aacps.org

Mr. Wells: rnwells@aacps.org

Mrs. Boaten: nboaten@aacps.org

Mrs. Whittington: jewhittington@aacps.org

November



NEWSLETTER

Ms. Crockett & Mrs. Ramirez

tmcccloudcrocket@aacps.org

aramirez@aacps.org

Mrs. Edralin & Ms. Nelson

sedralin@aacps.org

dnelson2@aacps.org

REMINDERS

Students need to bring Chromebooks charged everyday

- November Is Native American Heritage Month
- Fall Picture Retakes TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/1 : No School
- 11/2 : Sneaker Ball 5pm-6:30pm
- 11/6 : Marking Period 1 Celebration Assembly 1:20pm
- 11/8 : National STEM Day
- 11/20-11/21 : Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/22-11/24 : No School Thanksgiving Break

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Math: Unit 4 & 5: Unit 4: Add and Subtract Decimals - Unit 5: Multiple Multi-Digit Whole Numbers

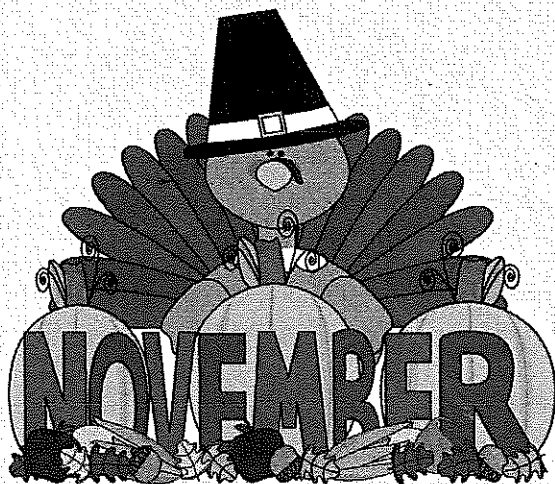
ELA: Students will experience the excitement of solving mysteries within the literacy texts and learn about how real-life mysteries or problems are solved with the informational texts. We will compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics, as well as integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Writing: In Theme 2, writers craft informational research reports through the lens of history. Students will delve deeply into information texts to take notes on significant ideas and supporting information.

Science: Unit 2: Star Light, Star Bright - We will be learning about the planets, stars and solar systems.

Social Studies: Exploring Maryland, the Constitution and Bill of Rights - Identifying how and why governmental power is distributed in Maryland.

PHES Reading News



Robin Parker, Literacy Teacher

- rbparker@aacps.org

Corinne Herrera, Early Intervention Teacher

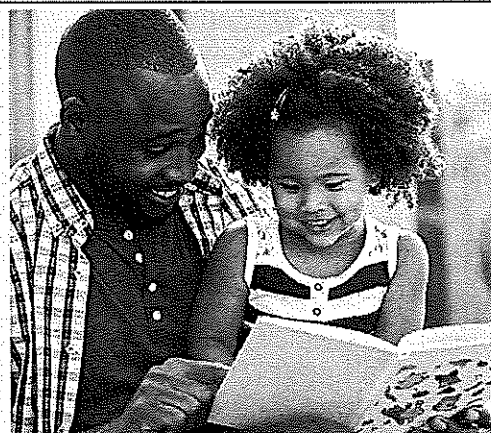
- cherrera@aacps.org

PHES November Reading Events

- **November 1st - 30th** PHES "Fall Into Reading" a 30-day reading incentive program.
- **November 10th - Parent Guest Reader day** - approved parent volunteers sign-up to read to their child's class.

Fall into Reading!

Let's help our students "fall" in love with reading! Look for your child to bring home their 30-Day Fall Into Reading Challenge Calendar. Have your student color in the square for each challenge they complete at home. Please help your child return the calendar to their teacher by Mon. Dec. 4th. The class at each grade level with the highest percentage of participation will be honored with a popcorn party and a special story time.



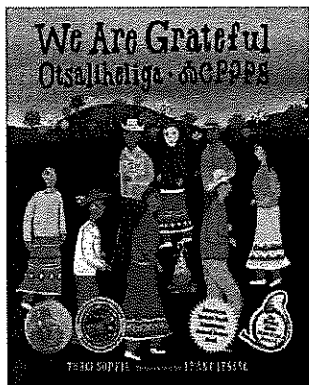
Home Reading Tips to improve Word Accuracy

Primary Reader: Have students identify the letters and the sounds those letters make before attempting to read a word.

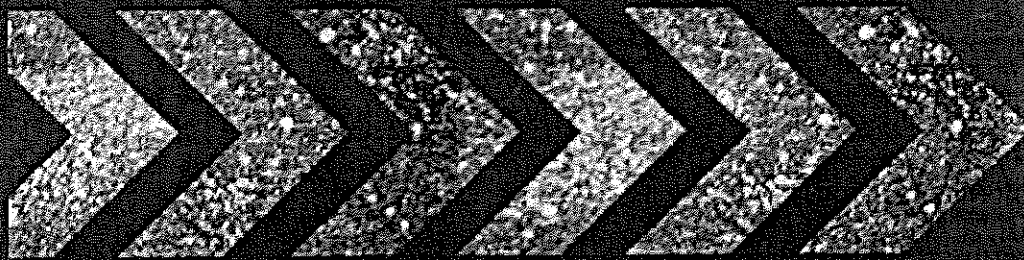
Intermediate Reader: Have your child chunk unknown words into smaller parts they already know, then blend all parts together. For example,

stand flat upset clips
mo-ment re-new-able

November Book Suggestions



Testing Update 2023-2024





October 31, 2023

Dear Families,

This fall, Anne Arundel County Public Schools fifth graders previously not identified as Gifted and Talented (G/T) in both reading and math will take the *Cognitive Abilities Test*[™] (CogAT[®]) online. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the test so that—with your support and encouragement—your child will do his or her best on the test.

About CogAT

CogAT measures students' **learned reasoning abilities** in the three areas most closely related to success in school: reasoning with verbal, quantitative, and spatial concepts. Not all children learn in the same way. Some think best using words or numbers. Others think best when using images. This test will help the teacher understand the ways in which your child reasons best.

Fifth graders will be testing on November 13th, November 14th, and November 15th. Students read each question and the answer choices, then mark their answers on the computer. Each subtest takes 10 minutes.

How your student can prepare for test taking and what you can do to help

You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.

Score reporting and how we use test results

You will receive a CogAT[®] score report by the end of the first semester. These scores will indicate how your child performed on the test compared with students across the nation who are either the same age or in the same grade. These scores, as well as the Renzulli teacher rating scales and the iReady Diagnostic assessments, will be used as part of the gifted and talented identification process. Results of the process will be shared in the spring and will inform course placement for the following school year.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child during testing. For further information about the Advanced Learner Programs (ALPs) and the gifted and talented identification process, please visit our website: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/2062>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Sincerely,

Ms. Selecia Hardy, Principal

Ms. Chante' Johnson, Assistant Principal, School Test Coordinator



October 31, 2023

Dear Families,

This fall, all Anne Arundel County Public Schools second graders will take the online version of the *Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®)*. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the test so that, with your support and encouragement, your child will do his or her best on the test.

About CogAT®

CogAT® measures students' **learned reasoning abilities** in the three areas most closely related to success in school: reasoning with verbal, quantitative, and spatial concepts. Not all children learn in the same way. Some think best using words or numbers. Others think best when using images. This test will help the teacher understand the ways in which your child reasons best.

Second graders will be testing on November 6th, 7th, and 8th at 8:30 am. No reading is required of students in any of the subtests. Students review the pictorial questions and answer choices, then select the picture that answers the question. The test is not timed, but each subtest takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Students will complete one battery each day that contains three subtests.

How your student can prepare for test taking and what you can do to help

You can help your child do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your child is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.

Score reporting and how we use test results

You will receive a CogAT® score report by the end of the first semester. These scores will indicate how your child performed on the test compared with students across the nation who are either the same age or in the same grade. These scores, as well as the Primary Talent Development (PTD) portfolio and the iReady Diagnostic assessments, will be used as part of the gifted and talented identification process. Results of the process will be shared in the spring and will inform course placement for the following school year.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child during testing. For further information about the Advanced Learner Programs (ALPs) and the gifted and talented identification process, please visit our website: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/2062>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

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Ms. Selecia Hardy, Principal

Ms. Chante' Johnson, Assistant Principal, School Test Coordinator