

Highland Lakes Elementary School Newsletter

Donna Gehringer, Principal

Jason Jessie, Asst. Principal



FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day
Report Cards Come Home
- 9 PTA Zoom Meeting 6pm
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 No School
- 17 Ash Wednesday

MARCH

- 13-21 Spring Break
- 14 Daylight Savings Begins
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 27 Passover Begins
- 28 Palm Sunday
- 31 End of 3rd Grading Period

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I want to give a very special thank you to all of our volunteers and mentors! Even though we have been restricted from having you face-to-face, you have still found ways to mentor online or do volunteer work from home. Your dedication to our students is incredible and because of you we can help our students achieve at higher levels. Thank you so much for going above and beyond to make every student feel special.

All year our students have been working hard on applying the learning strategies they have been working on in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. In May our 3rd - 5th graders will have the opportunity to shine as they show off all that they have been learning. It is at this time of year that many parents ask me how they can help their children become better readers. They also want to know how to help their child meet grade level expectations. The following are skills needed to be successful on the FSA (Florida Standard Assessment):

- Determine the meaning of words (vocabulary) by using is context clues (read through the sentence, skipping the unknown word and figuring out the word from the meaning of the sentence)
- Determine the main idea or essential message of the passage.
- Identify supporting details and facts (sentences or words that tell about the main idea.)
- Retell (child tells you the story in his own words).
- Recognize comparison and contrast (what is similar and what is different).
- Recognize the difference between fact and opinion (fact- actually happened in the story; opinion- what person in the story thinks about something).

These strategies will help your child become better readers and thinkers. Research tells us the more children read, the better readers and learners they will become.

I am looking forward to a great "second half of the 2020/21 school year. Your child(ren) are our greatest resource and we will do whatever it takes for them to succeed!

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SPRING BREAK CHALLENGE

Each student vacation break, Pinellas County offers a Bingo Challenge. Many of our students participate and Highland Lakes likes to reward them for their extra effort during their precious days off. The challenge is made up of different activities that can be done from home like math, science, reading, logging on to student websites and creative challenges. Students complete as many squares as they like. They are not graded on this and it is not a requirement. We just hope they do their best and try at least a few. The Bingo Challenge papers are due the Monday they return to school, March 22 with each completed square initialed and an adult signature at the bottom.



A Message from Ms. Sboukis, Highland Lakes School Counselor

The Kindness Challenge and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Fundraiser

Happy New Year HLE Panthers and Parents!

February marks the start of Black History Month, a federally recognized celebration of the contributions African Americans have made to this country and a time to reflect on the continued struggle for racial justice.

Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History," developed Black History Month. Woodson, whose parents were enslaved, was an author, historian and the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard University. Woodson believed it was essential for young African Americans to understand and be proud of their heritage. "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history," he said.

The theme of Black History Month 2021 is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity," chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Many institutions, including the ASAALH and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, offer digital programming for those celebrating at home.

We are starting off the year by participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Hero Squad fundraiser campaign and building social emotional skills during the month of February. Any day is the right day to show kindness. Showing compassion and empathy builds relationships, whether in person or virtually, and strengthens our community.

Each student will receive a calendar of daily activities to express kindness towards others. Have a conversation with your child about kindness and what it means - being helpful, thoughtful, respectful.... There are blank days at the end of the calendar to write in a personal kindness activity. Please check in periodically and highlight and acknowledge their random acts of kindness. At the end of the month, each will receive a token for the completion of the activity.





What an amazing first semester we had! I am so proud of all our amazing artists! I am so excited to see what we can create together for the second semester!

K-Africa: Artists have focused on the elements of art patterns, shapes, texture and colors during the second nine weeks. Artists created work inspired by the Ndebele Tribe, the artist Abdoulaye Konaté, and South African Penguins. Coming up, artists will learn about the elements of art form, texture, and space as we continue to travel around Africa!

1st- Australia: Artists have focused on the elements of art color, patterns, texture, and value during the second nine weeks. They have created works inspired Aboriginal Artists with their dot hands and their boomerangs. Students learned about creating more realistic art by adding value and texture into their Koalas. Coming up, artists will focus on the elements of art space, form, and shapes as we continue to focus on Australia and the surrounding islands.

2nd- Central and South America: Artists have focused on the elements of art texture, value, and space during the second nine weeks. Students have learned about Sugar skulls, the artist Tarsila do Amaral, and the llamas at Machu Picchu. Coming up, Artists will focus on the elements of art form, pattern, and color as we continue to travel around Central and South America.

3rd- Asia: Artists have focused on the elements of art value and form during the second nine weeks. Students learned about how to create different values while focusing on the theme 'What the World Needs Now'. Students used the different values of blue to create a design based on the Willow Pattern Porcelain. Coming up, artists will focus on the elements form, color, and texture as we continue to travel around Asia.

4th- Europe: Artists have focused on the elements of art patterns and colors during the second nine weeks. They learned about mosaic artists from Europe and focused on the theme 'What the World Needs Now' for their final mosaic design. Coming up, students are learning about the elements of art form, shape, and color as they continue to travel around Europe.

5th- North America: Artists have focused on the elements of art color, pattern, and line during the second nine weeks. Students have learned about the artist Robert Indiana and focused on the theme 'What the World Needs Now'. Students used analogous colors for their final designs. Coming up, artists will learn about the elements and principles of art form, shape, color, pattern and unity as they continue to travel around North America.



News from the Music Room

Students in grades Kindergarten through second grade, face to face and virtual, have been working on story-telling and its connection through music such as: understanding the story of Peter and the Wolf; identifying traits for each of the characters and predicting how their theme will sound in music; as well as identifying instruments and instrument families of the orchestra.

Students in third, fourth and fifth grade, have been learning about various composers of the past/present and their contribution to the musical world such as music in cinema, stories, and ballets/operas.

Students in 4th and 5th grade virtual/face to face chorus have begun learning proper vocal technique to prepare them for learning the music for their end of the year production. The theme and type of program will be a surprise and we are looking forward to presenting this new way of musical concert.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

klinekam@pcsb.org or 727- 724-1429 ext. 2138

Sincerely,

Ms. Kline

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, but you and your children should think about Dental Health all year long. It's a great opportunity to make sure you're on top of your child's dental hygiene.

Here are some ways you can be proactive about your child's oral health:

Don't Wait

As soon as your child's first tooth appears, you can start oral hygiene practices, wiping their teeth clean with a damp cloth or soft brush before moving to a toothbrush.

Practice Proper Brushing Technique

You can help your young child brush their teeth with training toothpaste and a small toothbrush.

Teach Children to Brush Twice Daily

For school-age children, brushing with a fluoride toothpaste will keep away tooth decay. Children should also be flossing twice a day to remove plaque between teeth before it hardens into tartar.

Help Your Child Keep a Balanced Diet

The dentist can partner with you to create a plan to keep your child's mouth healthy. In everyday life, a balanced diet of vitamins and minerals, calcium and phosphorous not only helps general health, but it can also help keep their teeth strong.

A dentist can help you determine whether your child might need sealants, which are protective coatings applied to the back-chewing teeth that can help protect against decay and reduce cavities.

(Health Partners Central Minnesota Clinic, 2018)



Hello Panther Parents! I am so overwhelmed with the level of parent support and engagement we receive regarding school attendance at HLES. If you are new or need a reminder, you should notify the school of your child's absence each day they are out. The link below will take you to our main website where you can report your child's absence online. If you prefer to call, we are always happy to hear from you.

<https://www.pcsb.org/highland-es>

Research shows that there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement. Additionally, it has been found that by the 6th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than test scores. Nationwide approximately 20% of high school drop outs were identified as "gifted" students in elementary school. One of the most valuable things elementary school parents can do to support their child's education is ensure they are attending school.

Attendance becomes a habit, even 2 days a month turn into missing more than 10% of the school year. Often parents believe that their student is doing well academically so the absences aren't impacting them. Unfortunately, the gaps of instruction loss in elementary school over time are the most difficult to overcome. Holes in learning coupled with underdeveloped study skills make academic success more and more challenging over time.

If you child is struggling with school attendance, please feel free to give me a call. There are many interventions we can utilize to help students overcome avoidance behaviors. We miss your children when they are not here. We know sometimes students need to be absent, but we are here to support you and your child by making sure that your child attends today so that they can achieve tomorrow.

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