Dear High Bridge Families,

Well, we made it through September and the students are settling in quite nicely. We had a very busy month with Back to School Night and all of the baseline testing behind us.

Moving forward, the First Quarter Progress Reports will go home on October 11th, and the First Quarter is quickly coming to an end on November 5th. Monday, October 14th is our annual Men Make a Difference Day here at the school. The men of High Bridge will have a guest Speaker, Mr. Randell Pike as well as a chat and chew followed by the men visiting classrooms.

Parents, doing homework with your children at this critical stage is extremely important. Please partner with us to assist your child in the doing and completing of homework. Homework is give seven days a week with no exceptions. If there is no written work there is the reading and practicing those math facts and math concepts.

Please join us as we continue to beautify our campus. On Saturday, October 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon we need you to assist in our Annual Fall Clean up. You have the option to volunteer an hour, two three or the whole time. Either way please help.

Please feel free to visit your child’s classrooms. Our teachers are doing a wonderful job with the students here at High Bridge.

~ William J. Kelly

COMMUNITY REFERENCED INSTRUCTION NEWS

CRI

The Curriculum Reference Instruction team would like to welcome all students and parents back for another exciting school year. After much needed periods of rest and relaxation, we are certainly off to a great school year. We have completed all beginning of the year baseline assessments, and utilizing the data to guide our instruction based on their needs as well as their individual education plans. This year, we will continue to use the Unique Learning System to provide meaningful access to the general education curriculum for our students. Community Based Instruction trips will begin this month. Students will be visiting various establishments in the community at least two times per month.

One of our biggest highlights in the special education department this school year is the addition of a sensory room. This area is particularly useful for students who require sensory input and breaks throughout their instructional day to help calm and focus them for learning. The appearance within our school has also change in that it depicts inclusivity as we continue to promote inclusion for all students in our school. As you walk through the halls, and visit areas in within the school, you may notice enlarged core communication boards to help our students who are non-verbal or have limited expressive language skills. Our students continue to be provided with inclusive opportunities with the typical peers daily during recess, lunch and some creative arts classes.

As we enter the fall, we anticipate student illnesses as the weather begins to change. Please be reminded that when students miss school, they miss out of valuable instruction. The school district is closely monitoring student attendance and tardiness, so please support your child in being consistent as school attendance is vital to student success. If your child is absent, please provide an excused note no later than 3 days after their return.
Kindergarten Highlights!!!!

We can’t believe how fast September has flown by! It has been wonderful getting to know your children. We look forward to the months to follow and learning more about everyone on our kindergarten journey together! In Reading, we are continuing to focus on what we can learn when we try new things. We will be engaging in 3 genres of text - informational text, fantasy, and fiction. Our Phonics instruction will focus on short a, /lm/ sound, and /sl/ sound. In Writing, we will begin the stages of pre-writing with drawing detailed pictures and telling stories to support the drawings based on personal experiences. In Math, students will begin working with numbers up to 10 to recognize that a number has a word and a symbol that correspond to a quantity, to sequence quantities and compare them, to quickly recognize the amount of small groups without having to count the objects, and to understand that the last name said in counting tells the number of objects counted regardless of the arrangement. We will also compare two groups of objects in order to identify which has more than, fewer than, or the same amount as the other, up to 10. In Science, we will focus on earth and space, with a focus on weather patterns over time and we will close the month with a pumpkin investigation! In Social Studies, we will be continuing to focus on what it means to be a good citizen in our school and home communities. Continue to read with your child every day. Lastly, with the weather changing, please be sure to dress your child in layers for the fluctuating temperatures.

First Grade Fun!

We’ve been busy in first grade learning new sight words/sound blends and using them in our writing. We’re also learning how to edit our sentences for meaning, capitals and punctuation. We encourage parents to use these skills at home as you do homework with your child. Remember to use details in writing and pictures to retell a story. Keep up the great reading logs at home and remember that at least 1 book per night are due monthly for a grade and prize! We’re learning about pets and how to care for them so this is an excellent opportunity to read fact or fiction animal books with your child. In math, we are continuing shapes and addition and subtraction strategies, such as adding doubles, adding tens/ones, adding 3 numbers and inverting number sentences to find the same sum; for ex.) 2+3=5 3+2=5 Ask: How are these similar? Practice math facts adding numbers to 20 each night to gain speed and thinking skills needed for our math program! Our behavior so far has been great, so let’s keep up the reminders and rules at home! We’ve set our goal high this year for increasing our reading and math abilities so keep it up with your kids at home! Your support is so helpful and appreciated!

Second Grade News!!!

Language Arts: We are in our first theme entitled: Family and Friends. Students will read various stories to answer the following essential question, How are family and friends special in our lives? We will be working on the following strategy: monitor/clarify text to better understand what’s going on. In writing we will focus on expanding our sentences and command statements.

Math: In October we are focusing on measuring. They will learn how to use a ruler to measure items using inches, centimeters and feet. Students still need to practice counting pennies, nickels and dimes up to $1.00 and telling time to the hour.

Science: Students will focus on answering the following question: Where is water on Earth’s Surface? This month we are focusing on environmental issues. Students will learn about environmental problems and solutions. Some of the topics we will be discussing are weathering, erosion and properties of the earth.

Social Studies: Students are learning about the branches of the government. They are also learning about community and state leaders and American symbols.
Third Grade Happenings.....

Reading: This month in Reading students will analyze how the plot affects the actions of different characters. We will also learn to analyze the similarities and differences between the characters in the story. We will have our first 10 day writing workshop. Math: Third grade will work on Units 2 and 3 of Math this month. In Unit 2 students will review telling time and learn to calculate elapsed time on a number line. In Unit 3, students will learn to create models for multiplication. Students will learn to use picture models and counters to show the meaning of multiplication. Focus on Fact Fluency: We will focus on multiplying by 5 and 10 with fluency this month. Science: In Science, students are learning about the climate and the weather. Students can review these skills by watching the daily weather report on the news or reading the forecast online. Social Studies: We will be teaching students all about government this month. They will learn how laws are created and enforced in our country.

Fourth Grade Happenings!

It was wonderful meeting our fourth grade families at Back-2-School night. We look forward to their academic growth for the rest of the year. Reading/Writing: Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about identity, with a focus on a variety of story types. We will read texts and view videos about how our experiences help shape our identity. Children will also write a story for an imaginary superhero adventures book. Literacy Tip: Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Help your child select a vocabulary word to study and model for the school-wide Vocabulary Parade which will be announced soon. Math: The fourth grade math classes are strengthening their skills to assist the study of place value, which may include utilizing decimals, reading and modeling numbers in different ways and rounding numbers. They will continue to solve word problems by using comprehension skills to determine the appropriate operation and writing equations. This will be an on-going practice to build literacy both in writing responses using sentences and in building fluency skills such as mastering multiplication facts up to the 12 times table. Math Tip: Let your child shop with you to determine your shopping bill or costs. Social Studies: In Social Studies, students will be learning the rights and responsibilities of Maryland’s citizens. Students will discover the roles of government and citizens, who make our neighborhoods and provide for those living in a town or city. Science/ Health: In Science, students are beginning to learn Earth Science. This month we will learn about rocks/minerals and fossils as well as changes on earth due to weather, water, and underground events. These entire events can drastically change the surface of earth and students will explore those causes and their effects. Our health classes will focus on proper dental hygiene. Other notes: There are some students who have not turned in their emergency/policy forms distributed the first day of the year. Please return those as soon as possible. Thank you.

Fifth Grade News Flash!!!!!!

With autumn having finally arrived, we are all in the proper mindset to perform well in our classes and making this academic year the most successful one ever.

Our Reading/Language Arts classes will continue the concept of “close” reading which offers an opportunity to fully engage in the message writers wish to convey thus allowing students to grow as readers. There is so much more content in their literary tasks than they realize. Making inferences, generalizations and drawing conclusions are skills being incorporated to make a reader grow. When we become better readers, we become better writers. As writers, we will concentrate on making our written messages more complex by choosing descriptive words, using a variety of ending punctuation, and skills to properly self-edit compositions. Mathematics classes will focus on our understanding of place value, fraction, and decimal usage to determine volume and other aspects of how space and distance is calculated and evaluated. We will continue on practicing to use various tools and organizers to better visualize our understanding of concepts.

Our Science classes will investigate the rotation and revolutions of items in our galaxy move and how they seem to look different to us as we look at the sky. This will let us see patterns in various seasons and days of the months.

Social Studies investigates the role of government and its citizens. They will learn how laws come into affect as well as how they can influence society as they study the founding of our nation.

In Health class, students will study how habits we develop can improve or hurt our central nervous system.

Looking forward, Camp Schmidt is slated for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14-15. Details will come soon. Chaperones are welcome, but remember that you must be cleared by the Board of Education at the Sasscer Building. The overnight clearance is about $60.00 and should be done through the Board in a timely manner. The process requires fingerprinting.

We look forward to our continued efforts greatly impacting our academic abilities.
Counselor's Corner

High Bridge Elementary School
Ms. Miller Professional School Counselor e-mail lisa2.miller@pgcps.org

National Red Ribbon Campaign

RED RIBBON WEEK
Spirit Days
October 23-31

You are invited to participate in a week of spirit to celebrate our choice to send a message drug free. October 23-Wednesday: Proud to Be Drug Free! Wear red to help kick off Red Ribbon Week!

October 24-Thursday: Don't Follow the PAC 😊 Wear your best 80's outfit!
October 25-Friday: Peace Out to Drugs Wear peace signs and/or tie dye
October 26-Monday: Follow Your Dreams Don't Do Drugs Wear your favorite pajamas (Please make sure the dress code is followed)
October 27-Tuesday: Team up against drugs! Wear something from your favorite sports team.
October 28-Wednesday: Too cool Wear your sunglasses to show that you are too cool to mess with drugs.

National Health Awareness Dates October
ADHD Awareness Month
Bully Prevention Month
National Book Month
National Depression Mental Health Screening
Child Health Day
Health Literacy Month
World Smile Month

September Guidance Lessons:

CHARACTER Trait—Respect & Courage
Keep Our Bodies Healthy, Red Ribbon Week, Being Present Conflict/Bullying Prevention Skills/ Mindful Breathing/ How Our Brains Work/ Responsible Behavior

Important Dates to Remember:

October 5
Clean Up Green Up Day
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

October 11
1st Quarter Progress Report Cards Released

October 14
Men Make Difference Day

October 17
P.T.A. Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

October 18
Professional Development Day
(Schools Closed for Students)

October 31-November 8
Scholastic Book Fair

November 5
End of First Quarter
(45 days)

November 6
3 Hour Early Dismissal

November 11
Parent Teacher Conferences (School Closed)

November 27-29
Thanksgiving Break

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Looking Ahead....

November 5

November 6