Dear High Bridge Families,

Seasons Greetings to you All! Can you believe we are at the end of 2019! The time is certainly moving forward rather quickly. November was full of activities and December is no exception! Second Quarter Progress Reports will go home on the 20th. We also are having our annual Winter Concert sponsored by our Music Department on the 18th. The Chorus is also going Caroling at two local Senior Citizen Adult Assisted living facilities on the 11th as well.

As we travel through December and embark on the holidays, let us not forget that we have two weeks to focus on academically. As you read throughout this newsletter our teachers continue to stay committed to the goal at hand; to prepare your child to be College and Career ready, life-long learners and well rounded citizens. Speaking of giving, a big thank you goes to Mrs. Hamolia and the National Elementary Honors Society students for spearheading our Food Drive campaign. The school collected over 600 canned and non perishable good going to The Bowie Food Pantry. Thank you parents for your support.

On another note, if you are not aware, the Winter Packet are available on line to access your child’s grade level, at www.pgcps.org. Remember this packet is non mandatory, however teacher's are suggesting that your child use this as extra credit or just simply practice as well.

As always, thank you for your support to High Bridge Elementary School and Happy Holidays!

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CRI

On December 2nd, the nation celebrated National Special Education Day. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was signed into law on December 2, 1972. This day honors the progress that has been made in special education. IDEA brings many benefits besides bringing students equal education. Let us continue to celebrate this journey!

The holiday season is approaching and this time can be exciting as well as distracting for our students. As we continue with planned instructional activities for this school year, the students in the Curriculum Reference Instruction program started their Community-Based Instruction trips. Some of the trips include holiday socials where students are invited by various community organizations for a time of socializations. Students are provided with a catered meal as well as gifts for the holiday. Additionally, our students are provided with inclusive opportunities with their typical peers. We encourage our parents to continue working together with us in a collaborative effort to encourage our students to communicate with intent.

With the addition of the sensory/calming room as well as the input from our Occupational Therapy staff, we have seen the utilization of this room by students who require sensory inputs and breaks throughout the day. Finally, be reminded that this is flu/cold season and we will appreciate your support in keeping our classrooms clean and free of germs. We will appreciate consistent donations of Kleenex, hand sanitizers and Clorox wipes. Also, if your child is absent, please provide an excused note no later than 3 days after their return. We look forward to continue working with your child in the new year.
Welcome to December!
In Reading, we will continue building on our learning and work with blending words with short a, short i, t, p, m, s, n, and c sounds. We will be discussing what you can learn by going to different places. In Writing, we will be continuing to follow the writing process, with a focus on realistic drawings with details. In Math, we will learn that two-dimensional objects can be described, classified, and analyzed by their attributes. We will also work with two-dimensional shapes to build composite shapes. In Social Studies, we are continuing our discussion about cultures around the world. In Science, we will be discussing physical science with a focus on forces and motion. It’s getting colder outside and winter is almost here! The students have been doing a great job with buttoning and zipping their coats. We are continuing to encourage independence and proficiency in kindergarten with the self-help skills listed below:
- Putting on and taking off jackets
- Zipping, buttoning, snapping
- Tying shoes
- Managing own backpacks, folder, and other personal belongings
- Making requests to use the bathroom without prompting
- Using and properly disposing of facial tissues
- Proper hand washing and sanitizing of hands

Fabulous First Grade!
First grade is ready for a wonderful, winter season of learning!
This month, we will practice writing personal narratives about special events in our lives as we learn to use the writing process and continue our focus with sentence structure and meaning in writing. In math, we will continue practicing addition and subtraction strategies for tens and ones and listening to word problems to determine the question (Is it addition or subtraction and why?) Work at home with math facts up to 20 and watch your child’s math skills improve! In social studies, we will continue learning about community helpers, how life was long ago compared to technology today and forces that cause motion in science. Please remember that great homework reinforces our lessons at school and will help your child prepare for assessments. Your child’s reading log will also help them grow with vocabulary, fluency and understanding of stories. Keep up the great winter practice and read every day with your child for our monthly book log!

Second Grade News!!!
Reading: Students are reading various fiction and nonfiction stories in order to answer the following question: How do animals play a part in the world around us? They will also learn about suffixes, prefixes and singular and plural nouns. In class they will work with a partner to complete an animal research project.
Writing: Students are continuing to learn about Personal Narratives. This month they will focus on selecting a topic. Once students have selected a topic they will learn how to add lots of details and how to organize their events, based on hours, weeks or years.
Math: This month students will continue to work on telling time to 5 minutes (7:35, 2:25, 12:55). They will also learn different strategies to solve subtraction problems without regrouping.
Science: We will continue to learn about the properties of matter and how it changes. Students will learn about the states (solid, liquid and gas) man made materials vs natural materials.
Social Studies: This second quarter, our unit theme is culture and traditions. Our students will discuss the different cultures in the United States and the various holidays celebrated in our country.
Third Grade Happenings.....

Reading/Writing: In Reading, students are learning to read closely in order to analyze literature. This quarter they will learn more about how to cite evidence to support comprehension responses. Students will also learn to determine the theme after reading. In writing class, students will compose an original informational essay on the animal of their choosing.

Reading Tip: Practice asking your child why and how questions about the stories they are reading for homework.

Mathematics: Ready Set Multiply! Third-grade students have begun to learn about multiplication. Students will use picture models and counters to show the meaning of multiplication. They are also beginning to memorize the multiples of 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Math Tip: Encourage your child to study the meaning of multiplication by using cereal pieces to create arrays. Students can study these facts at home using http://www.multiplication.com/.

Social Studies/Science
In the second quarter, students will study how transportation and communication have changed over time. They will use the skills they have to build in writing to compose an essay on the topic. In Science, students will plan and conduct investigations to collect evidence about how force affects the motion of an object.

Health: This month in health, we will learn about fitness and nutrition. Children will learn how to create diverse meal plans, the importance of food labels, and the characteristics of healthy personal eating habits.

Fourth Grade Happenings!!!!!

In ELA, our class is building our knowledge about traditional stories, with a focus on story genres, such as tall tales, trickster tales, and legends. We are reading texts and viewing videos about what lessons we can learn from characters in traditional tales. Students will also write a trickster tale for an imaginary class story-hour podcast.

Students are learning how self-reflecting allows us to catch mistakes and fix them and think about how to improve our work next time. Encourage self-reflection at home by asking your child questions such as: “What could you do better the next time you...?” Or “How have you made progress in...?”

In Social Studies, we are beginning to explore the history of Maryland. In our first series of lessons, we learned about Native American tribes native to our area. Students will begin to learn about colonial life in December.

In Math, students are learning to solve multi-step word problems using all four operations. In Unit 3, we will review previously taught concepts then apply the information to problem solving models. Our fluency goal is to increase automaticity with multiplication and division. Please remember to complete the Math Fluency forms in Multiplication skills as well. If those are mastered, use the time to work on activities to solve word problems. Count On Us Math tutoring hotline (301) 772-0080 or cou@pgcps.org. Monday & Wednesday 5-6pm. Comcast channel-96 Verizon channel 38.

In Science we have begun our unit Landforms (mountain layers, body of water impacts, and erosion) Health is exploring our digestive system and how certain food and activities keep us healthy.

Fifth Grade News Flash!!!!!!

Although we are excited about all the holidays and festivities quickly approaching, the fifth grade is still focused on becoming college and career ready.

Students have been broadening their understanding in Math by working with and creating models, which demonstrate decimals and fraction concepts as well as calculating Mixed Numbers. The models offer a visual tool when adding, subtracting, and multiplying them. We encourage students to continue to utilize the iReady and any other interactive computer games program at home as well.

In Science, we are studying the Earth science concepts as well as how the Earth experiences changes which result in changing its surface. Studies include weather, water, ice and any other factor which changes a landscape. Health will continue to focus on how our habits keep our mental and physical well being intact and how drugs and alcohol can impede our health as well as make it harder to achieve personal goals in school, sports or any other interests. Students will examine how both positive and negative actions will affect their lungs.

In Reading/Language Arts, the students are focusing on the analysis of non-fiction texts as we dive deeper into the genre of mystery. We are uncovering the craft of talented authors who subtly embed wonder and curiosity in stories. This will lead us to write our own mysterious compositions after the Winter Break. Please continue to monitor your child’s evening reading habits. Fifth grade students should be reading for 30 minutes each evening to build fluency, stamina, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Starting in kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

Social Studies is moving forward with the establishment of our great nation through the study of early colonial years and leading into the American Revolution. We are working our way through the timeline of our nation’s history as we uncover details about the politics and economic factors associated with our rebellion from England.
Greetings to all High Bridge Parents!

The Holiday Celebration is quickly approaching. The date is December 12th all choral performers will sing to the school twice on that day.

PLEASE ATTEND THE HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE on DECEMBER 18 at 6:30 PM. We would love to have every parent and guest attend and sing along!!!!!! Thank you in advance, and thank you to all parents for supporting music at High Bridge.

Mrs. Dionne Clarke
General/Choral Music

Mrs. Katherine Winters
Adaptive Music

Mr. James Kerns
Band and Strings

Conflict is not always a bad thing. Help your students realize that conflict is a normal part of life. Conflict will appear at home and school. Teach your children not to be afraid of conflict. Teach them to resolve conflict in a constructive manner.

Help them see the positive aspects of conflict. Conflicts teach us to:

- Remain Calm In Difficult Situations; Find Solutions To Grow; Force Positive Change!

Thanks to Mr. Gayles, one of our grandparents who represented his church The Excel Church. They generously donated Thanksgiving dinners to some of our children via a lottery drawing. Also during the season of giving Humble Servants Baptist Church donated 2 fifty dollar grocery gift cards to two of our displaced families as well.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Hello parents/guardians!

The Music Department would like for you to know what is happening for the month of December in all music classes. Be sure to watch for additional notes from us in upcoming HBES Newsletters!

Musically yours,
Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Winters

Music Notes

The musical concepts that will be covered during the month of December for the following grades are:

5th Grade
Students will be able to:
- Define Sharp, Flat, and Natural.
- Recognize the major scales of C, F, and G.
- Perform a short improvisation based on the G major scale.

4th Grade
Students will be able to:
- Identify and write whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests, and beamed sixteenth notes.
- Conduct in a meter of 3 and 4.
- Define and identify a Tie.

3rd Grade
Students will be able to:
- Play songs containing the notes B, A, and G in preparation for the Winter Concerts.
- Play the note C on the recorder.
- Define the terms Canon and Round.

Please make sure your child brings his/her recorder to school on the days that music will take place so that he/she will be prepared for the Winter Concerts. Recorders will be played during the 8:15 a.m. assembly on Friday, December 13, and selected students will receive an invitation to play in the evening concert on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.
2nd Grade
Students will be able to:
- Define Diaphragm.
- Number the lines and spaces on the treble clef staff.
- Aurally and visually recognize do-mi-sol-la patterns.

1st Grade
Students will be able to:
- Identify and use the four voices within a song.
- Define and locate Vocal Cords.
- Sing, play, and move to a rhythmic song.

Kindergarten
Students will be able to:
- Distinguish between high and low sounds in a song.
- Sing a song using high and low pitches.
- Demonstrate high and low pitches by singing, playing, and moving to a song.

Adaptive Music
Students in CSEP and CRI classes will learn many of the same concepts in ways that are meaningful to them. Students in grades K-1 and CRI will do more song games and instrument playing.

Chorus
Students will continue to learn the material that will be performed during the Winter Concert and at the Assisted Living facilities. Performance dates are listed in the Chorus Handbook, which is posted in the Google Classroom, and has been previously emailed to parents/guardians.

Homework will primarily consist of practicing the concert material during the week. Please make sure your child is listening to and practicing along with the files found in the Google Classroom.
COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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

Caring About One Another

Teaching our scholars the importance of compassion and kindness is an important message. During individual and large group counseling students often share that a peer has teased or bullied them. However, we do not really hear what they are trying to tell us. When we listen with our heart, you are able to understand the messages children are giving. Be proactive in anticipating negative conflict among peers, who disrupt teaching and student’s ability to learn. Encourage your student to create a Kindness Tree! Use your tree for a kindness project. Write acts of kindness on the leaves let your scholar and family choose a leaf for a secret kindness mission!

Focus On The Problem

Cooperative learning encourages our High Bridge Hawks to collaborate. Our instructors introduce peacemaking skills throughout the school year. However, these skills do not equip them with day-to-day strategies. We are working towards maintaining a peaceful and bully-free campus. Through active academic school community supports from the administration, specialty instructors and mental health providers our students are off to a great start. Encourage your child to identify and own their feelings by saying “I, not you,” specifically, identify an emotion. Instead of saying “You make me sad and angry. It is more specific to say “I’m sad and angry.” Here are the key points:

- Say “I,” not you.
- Identify the feeling—‘I’m sad and angry.
- Describe the behavior causing the feeling—because your things are all over my desk.
- State their need—Please stop

National Health & Awareness Days

12/2. Special Education Day
12/2-8 National Handwashing Awareness Week
12/3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
12/5 International Volunteer Day
12/10 Human Rights Day
12/15 Bill of Rights Day
12/19 National Impaired Driving Prevention Month Safe Toys & Gifts Month

December Guidance Lessons:

Personal Safety Part 1, Bullying & Empathy