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 Nights behind us.

Moving forward, the First Quarter Progress Reports were sent home on October 5th, and the First Quarter is quickly coming to an end on October 31st. This Monday, is our annual Men Make a Difference Day here at the school. The men of High Bridge will have a chat and chew and then visited 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.

We will have our First Quarter Literacy Night on October 18th at 6:30 p.m. Come and hear our Reading Specialist discuss the Reading Program as well as All Things Parents Need to Know about PARCC.

Please join us as we continue to beautify our campus. On Saturday, October 29th 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

Assistant Principal’s Tips...By Mrs. McLaughlin

Tip #1 – How was your day?
It’s hard to believe that we just had our first grading period! Progress Reports should have come home to you on Wednesday, October 5th. This will be a good middle-of-the-quarter time to get an idea of how your child is doing so far this school year. You can also find this out by checking with your child daily in the evenings. Parent/child communication is an important part of your child’s academic success. It allows you time to discuss how the day went and foster an even closer relationship as he/she learns and grows. It is often challenging with all the busy demands of a day. However, take some time each day to ask your child, “How was your day?” Many children tend to stop at, “It was fine.” Ask some of the following questions: “What was your favorite part of the day and why?” “What was your least favorite part of the day and why?” “What did you learn today (ask about specific subject areas)?” “Who did you play with at recess and what did you guys play?” “Who are your friends? Tell me about them.” “How do you think you are doing so far in school this year and how can I help you at home?” Last, but not least, “What do you have to do for homework tonight? Let me see it and let’s go over it.” These are just a few suggestions, but they can help develop great communication and shows your child how interested you are in his/her day and that it is important. If your child is less verbal in his/her communication, have him/her draw a picture about his/her day and/or have picture cards of various emotions and school activities that he/she can use to share/communicate with you while you talk with him/her. Also share some things about your day. It’s important that they know all of the things you do in a day as well, because sometimes they may think being an adult seems easy. As always, maintaining periodic communication with your child’s teacher(s), checking SchoolMax and checking your child’s bookbag for checked work and parent notices are also very important.

Tip #2 – October is Fire Prevention Month!
October is Fire Prevention Month and as scary as the thought may be, it is important to discuss what you should do in your home in the event of a fire with your family. Preparedness and Precaution will be your #1 help in preventing a home fire and saving lives in the event of one. Do you have a home fire escape plan? Do you have a working smoke alarm and have you changed smoke alarm batteries within the last year? Is the equipment in your house working and being used as instructed by the manufacturer? If you have not already done so, sit down with your family now and make a step-by-step plan for escaping from a fire in your home. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher in your home (preferably on every floor), and make sure everyone in the family knows how to use it. However, escaping a fire is more important than fighting it. Discussing this with your family will help everyone know what to do in the event of this kind of emergency. Check with your local fire department to find out what events they are having this month to help the community prevent fires. You can do this by checking the fire department’s website. The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department located at Freestate Mall will have their 31st Annual Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 15th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. They have various helpful presentations & demonstrations. It’s a fun-filled, educational day that will keep the whole family safe!

William J. Kelly
October News from First Grade!

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 15 reading minutes per night or 20 books 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 beginning addition strategies, such as adding doubles, 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 and subtracting 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 review 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! Remember to access IReady on the computer at home for reading and math practice. Your support is so helpful and appreciated!

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 15 reading minutes per night or 20 books 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 beginning addition strategies, such as adding doubles, 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 and subtracting 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 review 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! Remember to access IReady on the computer at home for reading and math practice. Your support is so helpful and appreciated!

Second Grade News!!!

It is hard to believe that it is October. Students are doing a great job of completing their homework and seem eager to learn new concepts in math and reading. We are very proud of our second grade students and their accomplishments. This month is jammed packed with activities such as Men Make a Difference, Storybook Parade and Reading Night. We hope to see you!

Reading – We have ended Unit 1 Friends and Family and began Unit 2 Animal Discoveries. In this unit students will focus on the following Essential Question: How do animals play a part in the world around us? We will be reading text from the following genres: Realistic Fiction and Fables. Each week students will learn how to use different reading strategies (predicting and inferring) and skills (comparing and contrasting text and identifying story elements (Character, Setting and Plot). In this unit students will also work on the following writing skills nouns, commas and subject and predicate parts of a sentence.

Science: This month we are focusing on environmental issues. Students will continue to learn about environmental problems and solutions. Some of the topics we will be discussing are weathering, erosion and natural resources.

Math: In October we are focusing on place value (ones, tens, hundreds and thousands) money and telling time. Students will learn how to tell time using analog and digital clocks. They will also solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies.
We are half of the way through our first quarter of the school year. Progress reports will be released soon. Our students are progressing well and adjusting to fourth grade. We have been studying the following:

**Math:** Multiplying a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number and finding whole number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.

**Reading/Writing:** Determining the main idea of a text: recounting the key details and explaining how they support the main idea; summarizing the text.

**Science:** How the surface of the Earth is changing; natural resources (renewable & nonrenewable).

**Social Studies:** Unit I Civics – Maryland’s Government

How has Maryland’s leadership made it a Free State?

We will have a Literacy Parade on Friday, October 28, 2016. Your child can dress up as a storybook character and please have them bring their books of the character.

Please be sure to check your child’s agenda book daily and check School Max weekly for updates on your child’s grades.

Thank you for your help and support thus far this year! It is the effort of our partnership that is the key to our students’ success.

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**Fourth Grade Happenings!**

We are half of the way through our first quarter of the school year. Progress reports will be released soon. Our students are progressing well and adjusting to fourth grade.

We have been studying the following:

**Math:** Multiplying a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number and finding whole number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.

**Reading/Writing:** Determining the main idea of a text: recounting the key details and explaining how they support the main idea; summarizing the text.

**Science:** How the surface of the Earth is changing; natural resources (renewable & nonrenewable).

**Social Studies:** Unit I Civics – Maryland’s Government

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**Fifth Grade News Flash!!!!!!**

With autumn having finally arrived, we are all in the proper mindset to perform well in our classes and make 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, text synthesis, 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 evaluated. We will be implementing new technologies to strengthen fundamental math skills as well.

We continue studying aspects of our world through the Space Science unit. We will investigate the relation of the sun to other bodies in our solar system as well as the affects made on Earth.

Social Studies will investigate the differences in the development of our original thirteen colonies. Students will learn more about the environmental, political, and economic factors that led to the freedoms and liberties that we celebrate today.

In Health class students will be encouraged to set goals and plans to reach them. To do so, skills in proper communication and proper relationships with others will be discussed.

Looking forward, Camp Schmidt is slated for Monday and Tuesday, May 1-2, 2017. More details will be coming before the winter break. Chaperones are encouraged and 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 a day clearance is about $7.00. Please make sure you have been properly cleared through the Board in a timely manner. A new policy has been applied where clearance has to be done at least two weeks prior to the trip.

We look forward to witnessing and celebrating the continued growth and academic successes of all of our students!
During the Fall Semester we will learn how to manage conflicts. Please encourage your young scholar to share how they feel. It’s very important for them to stop, look and listen. Here are some strategies to practice with your student at home:

- Breathe deeply
- Count to ten
- Say your alphabet slowly
- Talk friendly
- Stop Think and Choose (Taking deep breaths /consider everyone’s feelings. Are you calm enough to solve the problem? (Slow down) Get adult help or come up with as many different ways to solve and carry out the solution (Choose).

**Counselor’s Corner**

The school is located on 7011 High Bridge Road, Bowie, Md. 20720. Phone: 301 805-2690. Fax: 301 805-2693.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- **October 10**
  - Men Make A Difference Day
- **Oct. 12**...Yom Kippur (School Closed)
- **October 18**...Parent Literacy Night
  - 6:30pm-8pm
- **October 21**....MSEA Convention
  - (School Closed)
- **October 28**....School-Wide Literacy Day Parade
- **October 28**.....2 Hour Early Dismissal
- **October 31**....End of First Quarter
  - (46 days)
- **Looking Ahead.....**
- **October 31**....Grading/Planning Day
  - (School Closed)
- **November 4** Election Day
  - (School Closed)