

Pershing Hill Elementary

General News.....

December 2023

The Principal's Message

Greetings Parents, Students and Staff,

It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of 2023. We have been experiencing so much fun teaching, bonding, and creating memories at PHES. Our goal is to plan and implement engaging activities that will continue to enrich students' learning, celebrate their academic and behavioral accomplishments, and encourage a positive environment that they will remember and embrace for years to come.

We kicked off the month of December by welcoming MacArthur Middle School Basketball Players to Pershing Hill. A group of 4th and 5th grade students were selected to read with the players and watch a 30-minute tournament between players on the team. Students watched with excitement and cheered as the players scored. We are super excited about our partnership with MacArthur and look forward to future collaborative efforts.

Students in Grades 3-5 completed their 1st Quarterly ELA and Math Assessments. Teachers will be reaching out to share students' performance and provide strategies for them to practice at home. As a school team, we participated in a "Deep Data Dive". We will use the information to refine our instructional practices to promote students' growth in all academic areas. In the upcoming weeks, we will be providing after-school tutoring. More information will be provided soon.

We have a fun-filled month planned for our school's community titled, "Festive Fun at Pershing Hill". We hope that everyone will join in on the fun.

In closing, on behalf of the Staff and Faculty at Pershing Hill Elementary we would like to wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Your partner in education,

Selecia Hardy, Principal

Important Dates

Date	Event
December 5	Unity Day at PHES; Wear Orange; Early Dismissal
December 6	Fall Pictures – Retakes at 11:00 am; Volunteer Orientation @ 3:15 pm
December 9	Meade Cluster Wellness Event at Meade Middle School from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
December 11th	Instrumental Winter Concert for Students, Families and Staff - 6:00 pm
December 14th	PTA's Winterfest from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
December 18th	August 2023 – December 2023 Student of the Month Awardees – Making Cookie Dough with Ms. Hardy and Ms. Johnson at 7:45 am
December 20th	Chorus Winter Concert for Students, Families and Staff – 6:00 pm
December 22 nd	Winter Break Begins at dismissal 😊





MS. JOHNSON'S

Assistant Principals' Corner

DECEMBER 2023

School Day and Arrival

As the weather turns to the colder temperatures, a reminder that our school day for elementary students is as follows: 8:00 am - 2:25 pm.

To ensure the safety of our students, please do not drop students off before 7:35 a.m. Elementary staff members are on duty at the start of each day beginning at 7:35 a.m.

Bus Behaviors

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked if misconduct jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus or the safety of students riding the bus. Please speak with your student on following appropriate bus procedures.

RECESS WEATHER GUIDELINES

Prior to the first class' recess time, weather.com is checked to determine the current temperature. If the temperature is 32 degrees or below or if the wind chill makes it feel 32 degrees or below, the students will not go outside for recess.

BIRTHDAY(S)/STUDENT OF THE MONTH

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

"Jayylen's Christmas Wish"
By: Lavaille Lavette



CONTACT:

CHANTE' JOHNSON
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
PERSHING HILL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
CRJOHNSON1@AACPS.ORG
410-222-6519

December 2023

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

Debbie McAlvanah, Secretary
dmcalvanah@aacps.org

Notes from the Office

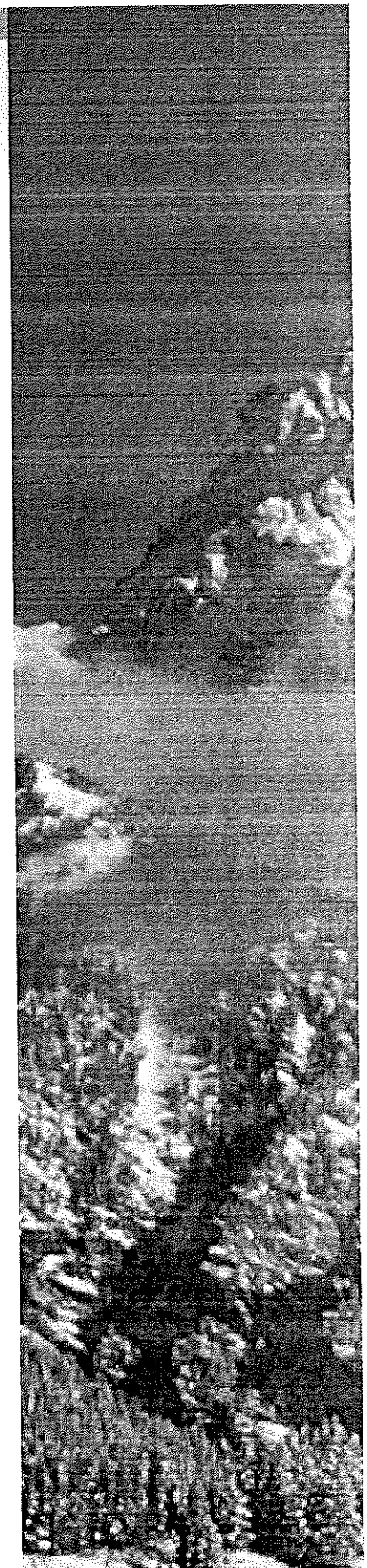
Early Dismissal / Change in Dismissal -- All Early Dismissals or Change in Dismissals must be done prior to 2:00 PM

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.**

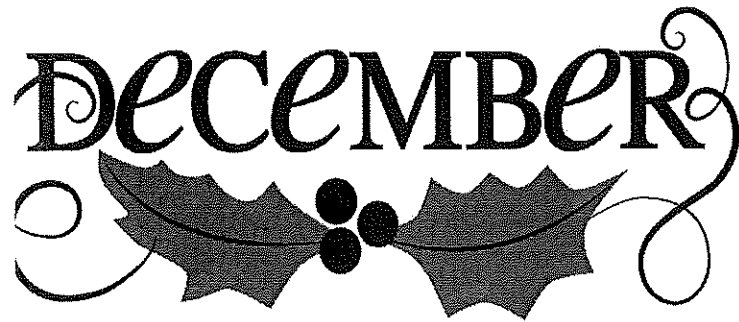
Absences -- Absences can either be reported through the Parent Portal Account or a note can be sent in with the student when they return to school. Emails and phone calls are not accepted.

Automated Attendance Calls — When your child is late to school, or absent, you will receive the automated phone call stating that your child is absent. Updating attendance is a manual process done throughout the day and can take up to 24 + hours to be updated.

Are you moving soon? — If you are planning on moving soon, please notify the office via email with when your student's last day will be and where you will be moving to. This will ensure time to make sure an electronic transfer packet is created, as well as making sure items such as chromebooks and media books are returned to the school.



PH&S Reading News



Robin Parker, Literacy Teacher

- rbparker@aacps.org

Corinne Herrera, Early Intervention Teacher

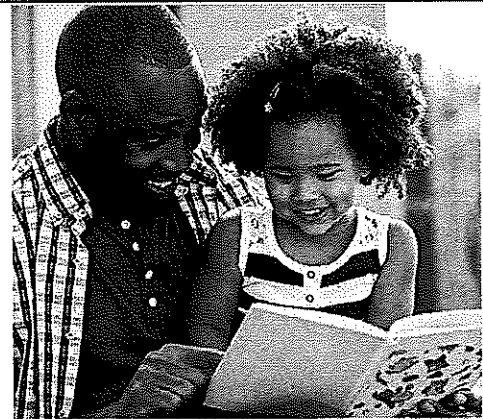
- cherrera@aacps.org

December is Write to a Friend Month

This month we will pair up higher and lower grade classes and assign penpals. Students will learn writing skills while having fun writing positive notes of encouragement to their penpals! Teachers will act as mailpersons and ensure the timely delivery of the notes, letters and holiday cards that will be written. As a surprise, students will have an opportunity to meet their penpals in January at a reading event. Stay tuned...

PH&S December Reading Events

- **All month** - celebrating "Write to a Friend Month"
- **Mon., Dec. 4th** - all Fall Into Reading Challenge Calendars due to classroom teachers.



What is Oral Reading Fluency and why is it important?

Oral reading fluency is the ability to read a text, quickly, accurately and with expression. When a child is reading fluently, little or no attention is required to sound out words. The reader's voice is guided by punctuation, and varies in tone, pitch and volume to reflect the meaning of the text. Words are put together in phrases to represent meaningful units of language and read at a pace that is not too fast or too slow. Oral reading fluency is a critical component of reading comprehension.

Home Reading Tips to improve Reading Fluency

- Model fluent reading by reading to your child.
- Have your child choral read or echo read with you and match their voice to yours.
- Re-reading favorite books, easy books or poems aloud will help your child to build confidence and fluency.
- Reread in silly voices, such as like a monster, as an opera singer, or even whispering.
- Reading and following along with audiobooks helps to build fluency.

Counselor's Corner

Coffee with the Counselor

Please join Mrs. Jackson on Wednesday, December 13 at 8:15 a.m. for an idea-sharing session on navigating the holidays with children. Coffee and munchies will be provided and younger siblings are welcome to tag along.

Festive Fun: Service Focus

Hopefully, you've had a chance to review our Festive Fun calendar for December 4 - 22. In addition to some fun dress-up and school-wide activities, we will also focus on several service projects this month. Research shows that when students volunteer their time to help others, they are 34% more likely to be in excellent or very good health, 66% more likely to be considered "flourishing" (a positive measure of overall well-being), and 35% less likely to have behavioral problems. (Ducharme, J. "Volunteering May Boost Kids' Well-Being, Study Says", Time Magazine, May 2023.)

If you'd like to support these efforts, here are some great ways to do so:

1. Winter Warmth Drive - we will be collecting new hats, gloves and jackets all month to provide warm items to children in need. Please send in any donations with your student and they can place them on the tree and in boxes outside the media center beginning on Wednesday, December 6.
2. Thoughtful Thursdays - we are asking students to do Random Acts of Kindness all month, but especially on the three Thoughtful Thursdays of Festive Fun. Your family might enjoy brainstorming ideas that you can implement together outside of school. Your student can then share your idea on paper mittens to decorate our "Kindness is Cool" bulletin board. A quick google search will net LOTS of great ideas.
3. Card making for deployed service members - do you know a deployed unit that would enjoy receiving homemade cards from our students? Please contact Mrs. Jackson at cmjackson3@aacps.org and share that information.

Attendance Corner:

Many of our military families have limited opportunities to visit far-away family or enjoy their loved ones due to deployments. If your student needs to miss school in these instances, please be sure to be conscientious of their attendance outside of those situations. When absences stack up, they negatively affect your student's academic performance. Thanks for working with us to help students succeed!

December Classroom Activities

In December, we will focus on introductory career discussions in 1st and 2nd grade, using our Xello program which makes career exploration fun. 3rd graders will continue to use Xello and make a connection between their skills, interests and goals and their future choice of a career. Time permitting, 4th and 5th graders will use the interest inventories found in Xello to explore possible career paths for themselves and identify what type of learning those careers require. We will revisit these explorations later this year at our school-wide career day.

Pershing Hill PTA

Thank you to our PHES families who supported our November fundraising efforts by attending the Chipotle Spirit Night. We appreciate your efforts.

On December 5th the PTA is hosting our traditional Unity Day staff lunch. Lunch will be a salad bar and deserts. To contribute please sign up [here](#).

PHES PTA Annual Winter fest will be held Thursday, December 14th from 5pm -7pm. Come join us for an evening of winter games, crafts, and fun.

Our next PTA meeting will be held on January 9th at 415pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Box Tops

Please support Pershing Hill PTA by uploading your grocery receipts to the BoxTop 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 December:

Writing: We will take a break from informational writing after we complete our penguin books next week. We will learn how to write a friendly letter so we may write to a third or fourth grade pen pal and eventually write to Santa or a reindeer the last week of school.

Social Studies: We are learning about different cultures and will end our unit with holidays around the world.

Explicit Comprehension: We are learning how to read with expression and describe stories by re-telling the characters, setting, and events.

Foundations: We will learn and apply grade-level phonics and word skills when decoding words. We will be focusing on "bonus letters" in FUNdations.

Math: We will be wrapping up our unit on addition. They have been learning different addition strategies (doubles, making 10, counting on). We will also be discussing attributes of shapes at the end of the month.

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 December

NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Please be sure to have your child bring their take home folder home and back to school daily!
- Make sure to bring in empty jugs for your class!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 5th- Half Day
- December 23rd- Classroom Holiday Party
- December 25th-January 1st Winter Break

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 RUNOW.

Writing: Informational Writing

Science/Social Studies: We Are Scientists

DECEMBER



Learning Focus

Reading: In reading, we will be continuing to look at the main idea of texts. We will also be learning about different types of figurative language and how to determine meaning while reading.

Writing: In writing we will begin a country research project! We will be researching at school and writing a report. At home, students will create a visual representation of their country knowledge. Stay tuned for more details!

Math: This month, in math, we will be finishing our unit on using properties to multiply by factors of 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9. We will also begin our unit on connecting what we have learned about multiplication to find the area of a rectangular shape.

Science: During science we will continue learning about animal social interactions. After that we will move on to heredity.

Social Studies: In Social studies this month will begin our country research project. For this project students will be researching and learning new information about a country of their choice. We will also participate in holidays around the world and learn other countries holiday traditions!



Reminders

Recess: We go outside for recess and PE unless it is 32 degrees or colder. Please make sure your child is dressed accordingly. Also, adding your child's name to tags helps find lost clothing quicker.

Holiday Activities: Don't forget to check out your "Festive Fun" calendar to see what fun things we are doing each day! Be on the lookout for information regarding our class parties taking place on December 22nd in the weekly updates.



Contacts

Kayla Clements

Krclements@aacps.org

Loren Pardoe

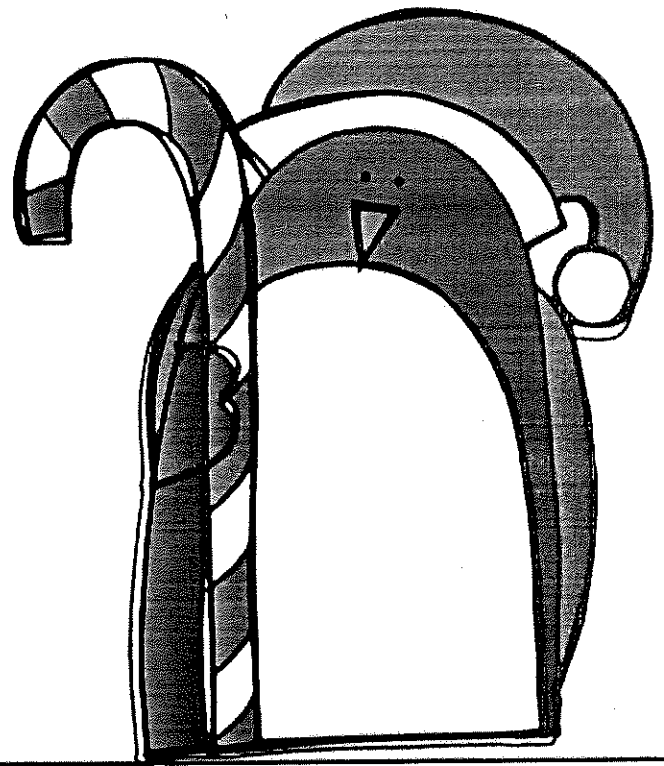
Lpardoe@aacps.org

Katie Scott

Kescott@aacps.org

Sophie Taylor

smtaylor4@aacps.org



Fourth Grade

NEWSLETTER

December

Reminders:

December 5th: 2 Hour Early Dismissal for Unity Day - Wear Orange for Kindness!

December 11th: Band/Strings Concert

December 20th: Chorus Concert

December 25th - January 1st: No School - Holiday Break

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

What are we learning?

Reading: Nonfiction Focus

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

Math:

We will be covering the following skills:

- Multiplying 1 x 2 digit numbers, 1 x 3 digit numbers, 2 x 2 digit numbers.
- Division within 10,000.
- Multi-step word problems using all four operations.

Science:

We will be working on understanding how earthquakes are measured and learning about waves. .

Social Studies:

We are learning about the way of life in the 13 colonies and the people who lived there.

December Fun:

On December 22nd we will be making gingerbread houses. Each class is looking for donations to help us with this event. Please be on the lookout for a signup genius in the upcoming week.

Contact Info:

Mrs. Corcoran: alcorcoran@aacps.org

Mr. Wells: rnwells@aacps.org

Mrs. Boaten: nboaten@aacps.org

Mrs. Whittington: jewhittington@aacps.org

December ●●●●●

●●●●● NEWSLETTER

Ms.Crockett & Mrs. Ramirez

tmcccloudcrockett@aacps.org

aramirez@aacps.org

Mrs. Edralin & Ms. Nelson

sedralin@aacps.org

dnelson2@aacps.org

REMINDERS

*Students need to bring
Chromebooks charged everyday!*

- December 5th- Two Hour Early Dismissal UNITY DAY
- All Classes- weekly I-Ready Homework 2 Reading Lessons and 3 Math Lessons
- December 25th - January 1st Winter Break No School

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/5- Unity Day (wear orange)
Two Hour Early Dismissal
- 12/6- Winter Warmth Drive
- 12/8- Mad About Plaid Day
- 12/13- Grinch Day
- 12/14- Winter Fest 5pm-7pm
- 12/15- Warm & Fuzzy Day
- 12/20- Ugly Sweater Day
- 12/22- Pajama Day & Class Partles 1pm-2pm.

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Math: Multiplying multi-digit whole numbers. Students will learn how to estimate products, multiple whole numbers by powers of ten, and find the products of multi-digit numbers.

Reading: Students will interact with multiple literary texts that enable them to compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters. Students are exposed to informational texts that enable them to compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in multiple texts on the same topics.

Writing: Write research-based informational reports within the discipline of history. Writers will building on learning in Social Studies to inform readers about the importance of historical events.

Science: Starlight, star bright. We are going over why some stars look bigger and brighter than other stars.

Social Studies: How did the location of Maryland impact the economy? After the War of 1812, we are studying the state of Maryland and the nation in Mid-Century (1815-1860).

The Cultural Arts Corner!

We are so excited to share what is happening in the cultural arts classrooms!

ART with Mrs. Long: As we return from Thanksgiving break, Winter art projects from each grade will start to be hung up in the school. Also, the Winter Wonderland exhibit will be at the Westfield Annapolis Mall and run from December 2 – January 3, 2024. Congratulations to 3rd grader, Evan F. and 2nd Grader, Emerson B. for their fantastic winter artworks that were chosen to represent PHES! If you find yourself in the Annapolis area, please go check it out! Meanwhile in the art classroom, Students are working very hard to complete some new art projects. Keep your eyes and ears open. 5th grade is working right now on designing the school yearbook cover. Make sure you pick up a yearbook when it goes on sale later this school year so you can check out the amazingness!

Contact information:

Mrs. Long - aglong@aacps.org

Ms. Bostwick - abotswick@aacps.org

GENERAL MUSIC with Mrs. Phelix: In Mrs. Phelix's Music Classes we are having fun and working hard to understand and demonstrate our skills and knowledge of the musical elements. This month I would like to spotlight fifth grade. Fifth grade will be wrapping up a trip on the Rhythm express where they are exploring and practicing rhythm and meter knowledge. Students will also be exploring the holidays around the world as well as completing a project-based lesson.

Contact information:

Mrs. Phelix - kphelix@aacps.org

Mr. Poole - srpoole@aacps.org

PE with Mr. Armstrong: For the month of December students will complete Safe ArmyNavy football activities, Passing and Receiving with the feet (grades 3-5), and Safe Individual and Partner Scooter activities.

Contact information:

Mr. Armstrong - starmstrong@aacps.org

Mr. Beaty - bbeaty@aacps.org

EEE with Ms. Gilbert: All EEE Unit 1 projects are currently in the planning phase moving towards the design phase of the process. Each grade is working towards this goal by drafting designs and getting feedback from their peers and myself in order to improve their plans. Most projects are slated to be completed either right before

Christmas or right after. We will be having a 1st grade maker showcase to show off all our projects before Christmas.

5th Personal Logos

4th Rock Mandalas

3rd Explorers

2nd Family Treehouse Collages

1st Maker Space Creations

Contact information:

Ms. Gilbert - amgilbert@aacps.org

Ms. Johnson - kdjohnson@aacps.org

MEDIA with Mrs. Reed: This month in media, the students will take what they learned about coding with the screen free indi robots (problem solving, creativity, teamwork) and apply it to block coding for Hour of Code on code.org or Scratch. Then, they will combine block coding with robots to code the Dash bot to drive, speak, make noises, and dance.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Reed - glreed@aacps.org

Ms. Wineke - swineke@aacps.org

Our Music Program:

Chorus: Chorus students are working hard to put together songs for our Winter Concert, "A Winter Night of Music". Students are working on demonstrating proper performer etiquette.

Winter Concert: Wednesday December 20th

In-School assembly at 8:15

Evening Performance at 6:00 pm

Chorus families, please lookout for an email with more details

Please feel free to direct any questions to Mrs. Phelix.

Instrumental:

Winter Concert: Monday, December 11th.

In-school assembly at 8:15 a.m.

Evening performance schedule: Strings at 6:00 p.m.; Band at 7:00 p.m.

Please feel free to direct any questions to Mr. Lindberg. We are looking forward to a terrific performance!

Contact information:

Mrs. Phelix (chorus) - kphelix@aacps.org

Mr. Lindberg (instrumental music) - wlindberg@aacps.org