

The Principal's Message

Greetings Parents, Students and Staff,

I am elated to be a part of the Pershing Hill Elementary School's Family. Thank you for your continuous support as we work together to provide rich learning experiences for our students, maintain a safe and respectful learning environment and set high expectations to ensure we reach our academic, social, and emotional goals individually and collectively. As vested stakeholders, we will continue to develop great partnerships to improve the overall effectiveness of our school and community.

One of our major goals this year is to analyze and share data on-going with parents and our leadership teams to ensure our students are being provided differentiated instruction at their individual levels. During our instructional walk-throughs we have observed students solving a variety of math word problems, identifying, and using comprehension questions to respond to text-based questions and exploring different topics to foster a love of learning. We are amazed at their academic progress so far this school year. Please continue to encourage our students to do their best every day.

In closing, I look forward to working with you. Please remember our school doors are always open for you to visit, collaborate and volunteer. We are better "Together"!!!

Your partner in education,

Selecia Hardy, Principal

Date	Event
October 15	Spirit Night at MOD Pizza in Gambrills, MD
October 17	Unity Day 2-Hour Early Dismissal
October 23	Parent/Student Magnet Information Night @ 6:00 pm
October 25	Fall Picture Day
October 26	PTA Trunk or Treat from 5:30 – 7:30 pm
October 30	2-Hour Early Dismissal Student of the Month Breakfast @ 7:45 am
October 31	2 -Hour Early Dismissal End of Marking Period 1





MS. JOHNSON'S

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2023

Beginning of Year i-Ready Diagnostic Reports

This is a reminder that student iReady reports are available for parents to access. Please see the attached directions and District Code(PCBBZ4) to download the report.

Transportation Reminder:

Please make sure to remember to speak with your child about proper bus protocols:

- Use a quiet voice while speaking
- Sit down while bus is in motion
- Be at your designated bus stop
- Keep your hands to yourself

MCAP 2022-2023 Distribution Process

On October 4, 2023 we will distribute the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for current Grade 4 and Grade 5 students that completed several MCAP assessments administered during the 2022-2023 school year. Please be sure to check student's take home folder.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

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

Queen of Tejano Music:
Selena by Silvia Lopez



CONTACT:

CHANTE' JOHNSON

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PERSHING HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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410-222-6519

October 2023

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

Michelle Horgan, Secretary
mhorgan@aacps.org

Debbie McAlvanah, Secretary
dmcalvanah@aacps.org

Notes from the Office

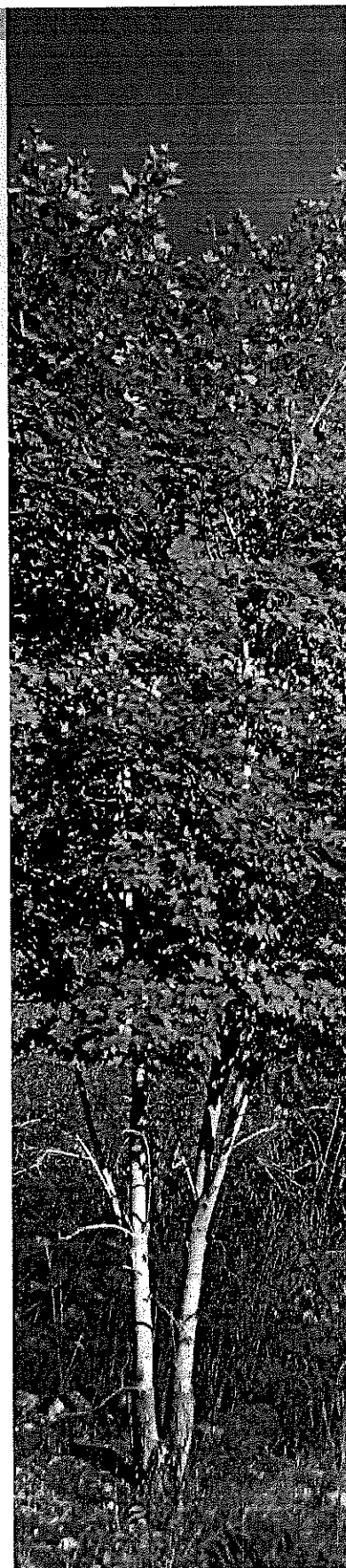
Early Dismissal / Change in Dismissal -- All Early Dismissals or Change in Dismissal must be done prior to 2:00 PM

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. Please note that reporting the absences does not automatically update the attendance and does not stop the AACPS generated attendance calls. Attendance is a manual process and is done throughout the day.

Visitors Pass -- All visitors must check in through the office. A Driver's License or State Issued ID is required. Military ID's cannot be scanned into the Visitor System.

Chromebooks -- ALL students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are expected to bring their chromebooks to and from school daily. While we do have loaners available, it is not a guarantee that we will always have enough loaners available.



Counselor's Corner

Excited to be here!

PHE has two new school counselors to provide a variety of services for your students. Mrs. Jackson (cmjackson3@aacps.org) is our full-time counselor. She has 4 children who have all attended AACPS schools and is proud to be a part of a military family. Mrs. Jaundoo (sjaundoo@aacps.org) is our part-time counselor who will support the department two days a week. We are happy to continue our collaboration with the Military and Family Life Counseling program and to have Ms. Sally Farrell in our building full-time. We are really enjoying working with your students, the staff and families at PHE.

August/September Activities

Our counselors have been busy providing services to all students in the building. In August and September meant providing classroom lessons in all grades on The Role of the School Counselor. Students learned about what we do and how to access the different services provided. New students in the building were invited to share a lunch with Mrs. Jackson to get to know her and to meet other new students in their grade. Those students were also invited to join New Student Small Groups which will take place in September and early October. Mrs. Jackson was available at Back to School Night sharing information and answering questions about the program. Many students who struggled with big emotions, change, anxiety or other concerns either self-referred to see us or were introduced to us by teachers and administrators.

Magnet School Info: Save the Date

Monday, October 23, 2023, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria

If you and your 5th grader would like to learn more about our county's STEM, arts or International Baccalaureate magnet programs and what participation looks like for Ft. Meade families, please join us on October 23rd. You will hear from PHE alumni and their parents who are participating in these programs currently! The AACPS site has lots of information - including dates for in-person and virtual overviews of each program. Applications are due in November (11/13), so now is the best time to consider these programs and their fit for your future middle school student.

Helpful Magnet School Links:

[Information Nights for Lindale \(STEM\), MacArthur \(IB\) and Brooklyn Park \(APEX Arts\)](#)

[International Baccalaureate Program](#)

[APEX Arts Program](#)

STEM Program

Attendance Corner:

As our school year gets underway, we want to remind families that regular attendance is an important priority. Research shows that it can have a significant effect on student success. Each month we will highlight some facts and tips to provide some interesting perspectives on this topic. If we can provide support with any attendance issues you are experiencing, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Did you know?

- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Children who were more frequently absent reported themselves as experiencing greater school-related stress, lower levels of motivation, and lower levels of school belonging.

<https://crane.osu.edu/our-work/absenteeism-in-elementary-school-has-wide-ranging-consequences-especially-for-minoritized-children/>

Pershing Hill PTA

We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who came to our first PTA meeting of the 23-24 school year. It was so good to see everyone in person, and we appreciate all your support this school year. As a reminder our next PTA meeting will be held on November 14th at 6:00pm.

We would also love to give a giant thank you to our students, teachers, parents, staff, and volunteers for supporting Pershing Hill's first Scholastic Bookfair of the year. We would not have been so successful without every single one of you who contributed your time and support.

Our teachers and staff were appreciative to all those who donated food and beverages to B2SN. We greatly appreciate everyone's continued support for our teachers and staff.

Our first ***spirit night*** of the school year at Texas Roadhouse in Columbia was last night. What a great way to eat delicious meals while raising funds for PHES. Our next Spirit Night will be held at Mod Pizza in Gambrills on October 15th.

SPIRIT WEAR

Our spirit wear shop is up and running online through October 20th. Congratulations to this year's spirit wear design competition winner Zoe Courchesne. Thank you to all who submitted designs this year.

Box Tops

You can also support Pershing Hill by uploading your grocery receipts to the Box Top 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



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 October:

Writing: Unit: Narrative Writing,

Students will write an event from their life with a beginning, middle, and end.. Events include pumpkin patch experiences and Halloween. If you would like an alternative please let us know.

Science: We will focus on the natural world around us and how seasons affect change.

Explicit Comprehension: Students will focus on what strong readers do while reading such as asking questions, retelling, and using text features.

Math: Students will be understanding that teen numbers are composed of a ten and some ones. They will also use place value to represent and compare numbers.

Reminders:

Please read with your child each evening and practice sight words.

Also, encourage your child to practice his addition facts through 10. A quick nightly review with flashcards will encourage fluency.

2nd Grade October

●●●●● NEWSLETTER

REMINDERS

- Please be sure to have your child bring their take home folder home and back to school daily!
- It's getting chilly out- please make sure to label your child's jackets incase it gets misplaced!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 17th, 30th, and 31st- 2 hour early dismissal

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: Patterns Within Numbers: Counting from 1 to 1,000, Skip counting by 5s, 10s, and 100s. Identifying patterns within arrays .

Reading: Fiction- Use illustrations to gain information about how characters respond to major events in a story, describe the overall structure of a story. Nonfiction- Identify main topics and main purpose, look closely at text features to compare texts, ask and answer questions about the text.

Writing: Personal narratives: Small Moment Stories

Science/Social Studies: Tremendous Trees



Classroom NEWSLETTER

Reminders

- Please remember to send your child to school every day with their agenda, Chromebook, and their purple folder.

- Don't forget to empty your child's purple folder every Friday!

- Water is the only drink permitted in the classroom. Please save juice, and other beverages for lunch time.

Contact info:

Kayla Clements

Krclements@aacps.org

Loren Pardoe

Lpardoe@aacps.org

Katie Scott

Kescott@aacps.org

Sophie Taylor

smtaylor4@aacps.org

OCTOBER

OUR LEARNING

focus...

Reading: Students will continue to learn about elements of fiction stories by exploring characters, feelings, and mood. Students will continue to learn next steps for reading and responding to prompts. We will also be introducing non fiction text structures this month!

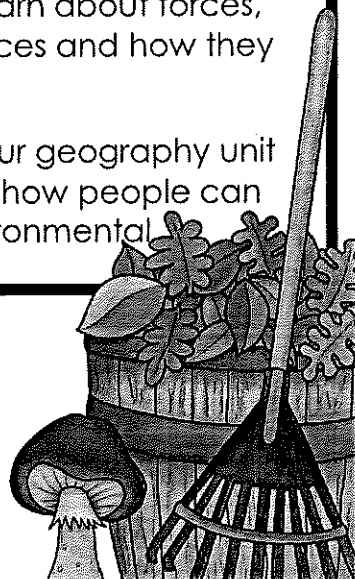
Math: This month we will be finishing exploring addition and subtraction strategies, and we will be beginning our unit on multiplication and division! Be on the look out for our parent letter coming home!

Writing: Students will be continuing their small moment unit this month, where they are writing true stories about small moments in their lives. We will be focusing on adding details, dialogue, and adding transitions to our stories. We will also be focusing on using capital letters and punctuation appropriately.

Science: Students will continue to learn about forces, specifically the effects of magnetic forces and how they can be used to solve problems.

Social Studies: We will be ending our geography unit this month! Then, students will focus on how people can change the environment through environmental modifications.

Third Grade





What's Happening in Fourth Grade?

OCTOBER

Important Information:

Please visit Parent Portal (Powerschool) frequently to view/check your students grades.

If your student is absent please record the absence in Power School OR provide a written note upon your students return to school.

Emails and phone calls can no longer be used as proof of student absence.

Instructional Focuses:

READING

Fiction Focus:

Students are working on identifying character traits based on how a character speaks and acts in a text. Students are also working on identifying the theme (lesson) of a text.

SCIENCE:

Students are learning about the structures of plants/animals and how plants and animals adapt to different environments.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Students are learning about the geography of the Americas, Western Europe and West Africa. Then delving into 16th and 17th century migration patterns (why people left their home countries to come to the new world). As well as discovering the different indigenous nations living in the New World at that time.

WRITING:

Students are working towards writing a narrative writing piece with a realistic setting, strong/believable characters and a plot (beginning/middle/end).

MATH:

Students are working on adding and subtracting using the standard algorithm, estimating, and using multiplication in comparison situations.

Contact Info:

Mrs. Corcoran: alcorcoran@aacps.org

Mr. Wells: rnwells@aacps.org

Mrs. Boaten: nboaten@aacps.org

Mrs. Whittington: jewhittington@aacps.org

Looking Forward:

Arlington Echo is our major field trip of the year. This field trip cannot be done without your help. While our field trip is not for a while, if you have an interest in being a chaperone, please make sure to complete an AACPS background check and attend a PHES volunteer orientation. Background checks last for 2 years.

October



NEWSLETTER

Ms.Crockett & Mrs. Ramirez

tmccloudcrockett@aacps.org

aramirez@aacps.org

Mrs. Edralin & Ms. Nelson

sedralin@aacps.org

dnelson2@aacps.org

REMINDERS

*Students need to bring Chromebooks
charged everyday*

October 23-27th

**Harvest for the Hungry Spirit Week & Food
Drive:**

Mon- PJ Day

Tues- Team Day

Wed- Wacky Day

Thurs- Superhero Day

Fri- Purple Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 2nd- National Custodian Day
- October 9th- Fire Prevention Week
- October 17th- Unity Day
Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- October 26th- Trunk or Treat
5:30-7:30pm
- October 30th & 31st-
Two-Hour Early Dismissal

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Math: Unit 4: Add and Subtract Decimals - Student will learn strategies to understand the placement of decimals when adding and subtracting i.e. tenths , hundredths, thousandths place.

ELA: Theme 1: Communication - compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics, as well as integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Writing: Generating Personal Narratives - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

Science: Unit 3-5: Ecosystems and Food Webs - Students are choosing their own ecosystems to create a food web. Identifying producers consumers and decomposers within that ecosystem.

Social Studies: Exploring Maryland, the Constitution and Bill of Rights -Identifying how and why governmental power is distributed in Maryland.

The Cultural Arts Corner!

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

ART with Mrs. Long: We are working on our first autumn projects that will be hanging in the hallways once they are completed and graded. First grade is focusing on different ways to make lines. 2nd grade is learning how to create texture. 3rd grade has been creating multiple textures and will be showing how to arrange objects to create space. 4th grade is using tape to create shapes and painting with analogous colors. 5th grade is learning about Vincent van Gogh and are making a starry night pumpkin patch.

I'm also looking for parent volunteers that can help with hanging up artwork and completing a few tasks in the classroom like cutting paper, cleaning paint brushes, labeling artwork, etc.

Contact information:

Mrs. Long - aglong@aacps.org

Ms. Bostwick - abotswick@aacps.org

GENERAL MUSIC with Mrs. Phelix: We are working hard to set that foundation of steady beat, developing our rhythm skills, and taking listening to music to a whole new level! This month I would like to highlight the first grade curriculum. Over the course of October, the first grade students will draw, dance, sing, write, listen, and discuss to work on their musical skills. Students will learn about long and short sounds and how they translate into music notation. Students will also start to identify sections of music that are the same and different along with how the music moves!

Contact information:

Mrs. Phelix - kphelix@aacps.org

Mr. Poole - srpoole@aacps.org

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

PE with Mr. Armstrong: In October, the following units will be covered: parachute, throwing overhand, passing and receiving w/ the hands (grades 3-5), catching (grades 2 & 1), and throwing underhand.

Contact information:

Mr. Armstrong - starmstrong@aacps.org

Mr. Beaty - bbeaty@aacps.org

EEE with Ms. Gilbert: This month in EEE we have been working on team building. We have talked about what an effective team looks like, sounds like and feels like. We are connecting being on teams to our larger teams, which is the class as a whole and our

school. This is where we talk about our PBIS goals and how the 4 C's of 21st Century essential skills connect to *effective* teamwork: collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

Contact information:

Ms. Gilbert - amgilbert@aacps.org

Ms. Johnson - kdjohnson@aacps.org

MEDIA with Mrs. Reed: Media students will dive into two very important topics this month: accessing and using online databases to determine which database(es) would best suit their research needs, and how to be responsible and safe digital citizens. We will continue to review genres, book care, and how to find titles for personal reading interests.

Media Teachers and Contact Information:

Mrs. Reed - glreed@aacps.org

MS. Wineke - swineke@aacps.org

CHORUS with Mrs. Phelix: Our General's Chorus is for 4th and 5th grade students and I am so excited to welcome over 80 students this fall to come together to sing and make music as one as they become stronger musicians. We had our first performance opportunity in September. A number of our chorus members gathered at MHS with other musicians from the Meade Feeder to perform our National Anthem prior to the football game. We are now actively working on putting together music for our Winter Concert on December 20th. Our 5th graders are also working on putting together a performance for our annual Veteran's Day performance in November!

Testing Updates

From Mrs. Johnson



Hello! Congratulations to your student on completing the *i-Ready* Diagnostic!

What is the *i-Ready* Diagnostic?

The Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that identifies students' strengths and opportunities for growth. That information helps determine how to best support their learning. Watch this [video](#) to learn more.



How can I access my student's results?

1. Log in to your student's *i-Ready* Dashboard using their district or school's portal credentials and then click on the *i-Ready* icon.
2. Click on the For Families dropdown and select the For Families report.
3. Enter your District's Report Code . PCBBZ4

How should I interpret my student's results?

How is my student doing overall?

The goal is for your student to achieve performance levels that meet or exceed the expectations set for their grade level.

On the For Families report, the **A** blue bar(s) on the graph and the corresponding **B** placement level(s) indicate how your student performed on each test in relation to their grade level, which is indicated by the **C** green shading. The **D** National Norm percentile below the graph indicates how your student performed in relation to students in the same grade level nationwide.

How is my student doing in specific learning areas?

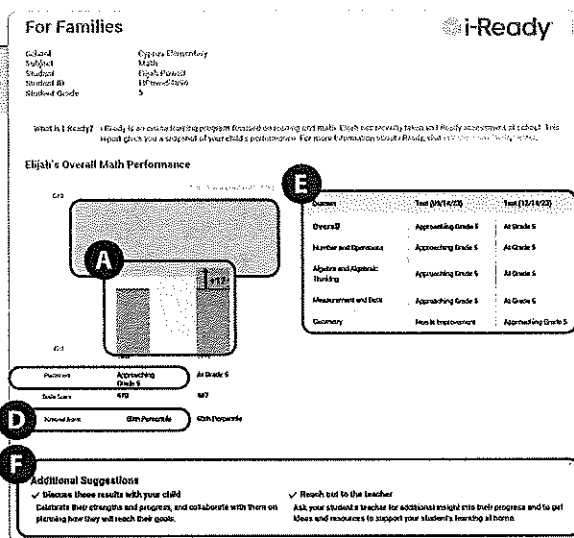
It is important to understand how your student did in more specific learning areas, which are called domains. The **E** domain table shows how your student did in specific domains and helps teachers know where to build on strengths and focus their instructional support.

How is my student progressing over time?

The goal is for your student to be making progress in their learning. After your student has taken more than one Diagnostic in the school year, you will see results for each Diagnostic, which includes your student's progress overall and within each domain.

How can I support my student at home? **F** Additional Suggestions

Celebrate your student's strengths and progress so they can feel motivated and ready to work on their goals. Contact your student's teacher for additional insight into their progress and to get resources that can support your student's learning at home.



For more information and support, visit the [i-Ready Family Center: Understanding Diagnostic Results](#). Thank you again for your continued partnership and support of your student's learning. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions.



Best,
Chante' Johnson
Assistant Principal
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410-222-6519