

April 2024

## Important Dates

### The Principal's Message

Greetings Parents, Students and Staff,

Happy Spring! We hope that you are preparing for a relaxing Spring Break with family and close friends. Spring Break will start immediately after dismissal on March 22nd and concludes on April 1<sup>st</sup>. While this break is much needed and well deserved, we will be patiently awaiting all 500 plus students on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have set a school-wide goal to have 100% of our students in attendance on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This month, we are excited to celebrate our Military Students. "Every April, all month long, we celebrate the courage, perseverance and tenacity demonstrated by our military-connected children, youth and teens and what they mean to our community". We have many exciting activities planned to celebrate our students and families who have committed their lives to serving our country and being a wonderful part of our school community. Please lookout for future announcements from our Month of the Military Child Committee.

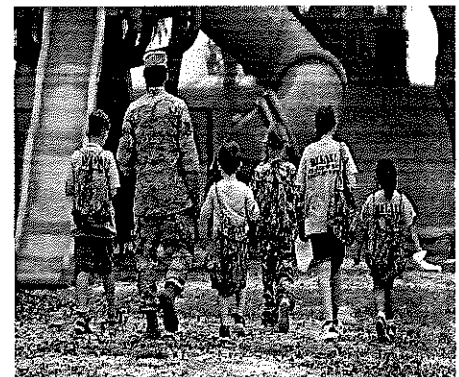
As the weather changes, we know that students will gain an extra burst of energy. As a result, our teachers will continue to provide rich learning experiences that involve students participating in fun and engaging activities that provides opportunities for them to rotate within the classroom. To ensure our students are always safe, please remind our students to play safely to avoid any accidents on the playground and to follow teachers' directions regarding permissible recess activities.

In closing, thank you for continued support as we continue to work together at PHES.

Your partner in education,

Selecia Hardy, Principal

Date	Event
April 1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Month of the Military Child
April 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Assistant Principals' Week
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School is back in session 😊
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	National School Librarian Day; 2-Hour Early Dismissal
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	2-Hour Early Dismissal; End of Marking Period 3
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	No School for Students or Staff
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Awards Assembly
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Month of the Military Child Spirit Week
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	National Bus Driver Day
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Administrative Professionals Day
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Behavior and Attendance Celebration
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Student of the Month Breakfast at 7:45 am
April 29 <sup>th</sup> – May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Book Fair





# MS. JOHNSON'S

## Assistant Principals' Corner

APRIL 2024

### MCAP State Standardized Testing

The month of April means it is time for state standardized testing to occur for students in Grades 3-5. Our intermediate students will participate in MCAP testing. The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) provides information to educators, families and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland state content standards. Dates of testing will be shared with families soon.

### Alternate Assessment Testing

The month of April also means it is time for state standardized testing for students in Grades 3-5 who participate in the Alternate Academic Curriculum Classes (ACC). Alternate assessments were developed to ensure that all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, are able to participate in assessments that can measure what they know and can do in relation to the grade level standards. Dates of testing will be shared with families soon.

### DAILY ATTENDANCE = SUCCESS!

Daily attendance often plummets before and following Spring Break. As we prepare for warmer weather, please remember that allergies are not a reason to stay home from school. If students are feeling healthy, please ensure students are here each day. Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn and connect to peers and their teachers.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HELLO! EACH MONTH, I WILL  
SHARE A BOOK TO  
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION.



Hidden Figures: The True  
Story of Four Black Women  
and the Space Race



### CONTACT:

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

April 2024

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

Debbie McAlvanah, Secretary  
dmcalvanah@aacps.org

Patrice Tucker, Secretary  
pctucker@aacps.org

## Notes from the Office

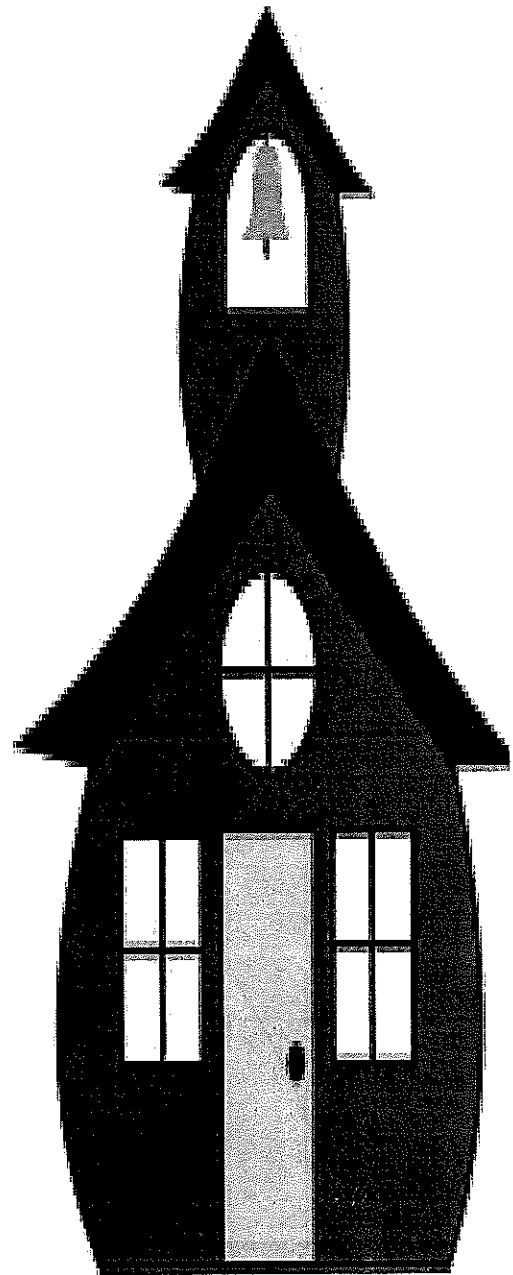
**Early Dismissal / Change in Dismissal** -- All Early Dismissals or Change in Dismissals must be done prior to 2:00 PM

**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.



# First Grade Team

## Newsletter

Mrs. Noel [nanoel@aacps.org](mailto:nanoel@aacps.org)

Mrs. Tibbetts [ktibbetts@aacps.org](mailto:ktibbetts@aacps.org)

Ms. Gruss [cgruss@aacps.org](mailto:cgruss@aacps.org)

Mrs. Graham [tjgraham@aacps.org](mailto:tjgraham@aacps.org)

Ms. O'Connell [mvoconnell@aacps.org](mailto:mvoconnell@aacps.org)



### Instructional Focus for the Month of April:

**Writing:** Students will finish opinion writing and with the beginning of the 4th quarter, they will write what they would like to be when they grow up. By the third week in April, students will segue into narrative writing.

**Science:** We will dive into our Bubbleology Unit!

**Explicit Comprehension:** In reading, we will learn to compare and contrast books and characters as well as continue to practice retelling fiction and nonfiction books.

**Foundations:** We will learn and apply grade-level phonics and word skills when decoding words. FUNdations will focus on consonant blends.

**Math:** In earlier units, students developed strategies to add and subtract within 20 as they worked toward fluency with addition and subtraction facts. In unit 11 we will be using tools to add 2-digit numbers to subtract. They will also be subtracting multiples of 10. These skills prepare them for work next year with more difficult addition and subtraction problems.

#### Upcoming Events:

Spring Break 3-25-24 to 4-1-24

April is Month of the Military Child!

4-4-24 and 4-5-24 2hr Early Dismissal (End of 3rd Quarter)

4-10-24 No School

# 2nd Grade April

## ●●●●● NEWSLETTER

### REMINDERS

- Please be sure to have your child bring their take home folder home and back to school daily!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8th- Beginning of Q.4

April 10th- No school, Eid al-Fitr.  
**2nd Grade Contacts**

Ms. DeCrispino-

mdecrispino@aacps.org

Ms. House- chouse@aacps.org

Mrs. Meissgeier-

bmeissgeier@aacps.org

Mrs. Smith- tasmith5@aacps.org

Mrs. Carter- ncarter@aacps.org

Mrs. Hawkins- Khawkins@aacps.org

### WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

**Math:** Strategies to subtract 3 digit numbers

**Reading:** Fiction- Understanding the plot and structure of a story, determining the central message

Nonfiction- Understanding nonfiction text features, making connections between historical events, identifying author's main purpose

**Writing:** Opinion Writing- Students will continue to learn the difference between fact and opinion, as well as how to construct an opinion based argument through writing.

**Science/Social Studies:** We Are Time Travelers- Students will learn about historical sources, artifacts, and tools from the past.

# APRIL



## Learning Focus

**Reading:** This month, we will be beginning to look at fairy tales by finding the theme, learning about characters, and how to look at the details of a text. We will also continue to practice responding to prompts and citing text evidence.

**Writing:** April begins 4th marking period, and a new writing focus. Students will learn about fairy tales, and how to write them.

**Math:** This month, we will be applying our knowledge of multiplication and division to solve two-step word problems. We will also be digging into our unit about perimeter.

**Science:** This month, students will begin an engineering project. Students will be learning about the steps of the Engineering Design Process. Then, they will be identifying possible solutions to a problem, having to do with parachutes and drag.

**Social Studies:** Students will begin our quarter long Environmental Action Research project. We will start this project by learning about what a citizen is, how they help in the community, and by completing research to identify an environmental problem within our community.



## Contacts

**Kayla Clements**

[Krclements@aacps.org](mailto:Krclements@aacps.org)

**Loren Pardoe**

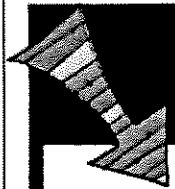
[Lpardoe@aacps.org](mailto:Lpardoe@aacps.org)

**Katie Scott**

[Kescott@aacps.org](mailto:Kescott@aacps.org)

**Sophie Taylor**

[smtaylor4@aacps.org](mailto:smtaylor4@aacps.org)

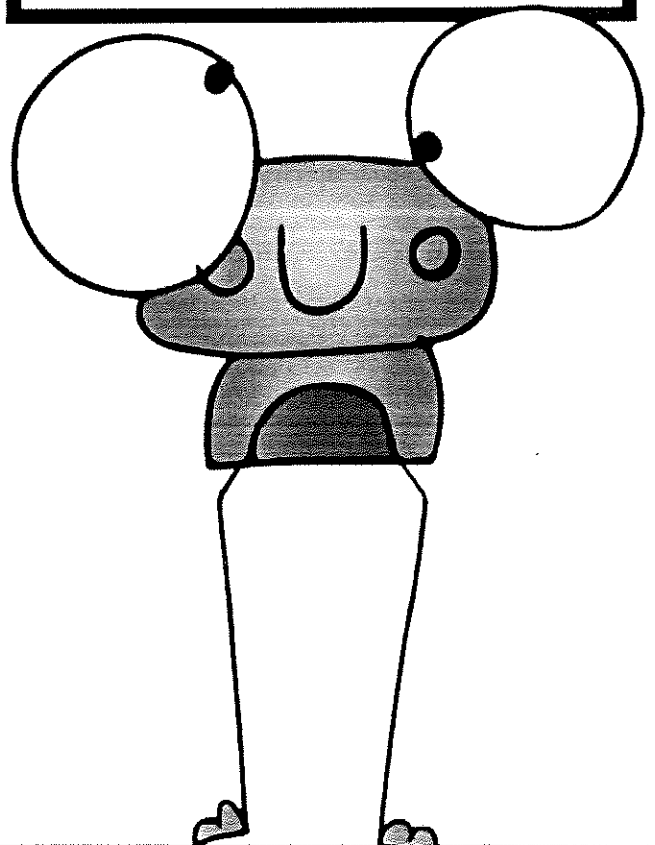


## Reminders

**MCAP Dates:** Math- April 8, 9, 11, 12

ELA- April 15, 16, 17, 18

Please help us by making sure your child is present during testing dates with a fully charged computer and headphones.



# Fourth Grade

# NEWSLETTER

April

## Reminders:

**April 1:** No School (Spring Break)

**April 4th & 5th:** 2 Hour Early Dismissal (End of 3rd Marking Period)

**April 8-12:** Math MCAP 8:15 - 9:55

**April 10th:** No School

**April 22-26** Reading MCAP 12:30 - 2:10

**Power School should be checked frequently to review your students grades. Any unfinished or missing assignments are also noted in Powerschool.**

## What are we learning?

### Reading: Fiction & Nonfiction Focus

We are focusing on the following skills.

- Text Structures
- Poetry
- Inferencing
- Main Idea/Theme
- Analyzing Illustrations

### Writing:

We are working on writing a narrative writing piece with characters, setting, plot and dialogue.

### Science:

We will be learning about renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy.

### Social Studies:

We are learning about the different battles of the American Revolution and determining the effectiveness of the Articles of Confederation post war.

## New Grading Policy per PHES:

Classwork retakes will be allowed if students miss an assignment due to an excused absence or if they score below a 60%. If a student refuses to do an assignment, they will be given a 50% and will not be allowed to retake the assignment.

Assessments/Checkpoints cannot be redone and are added to the gradebook.

### Math:

We will be covering the following skills:

- Comparing Decimals
- Adding Decimals
- Solving Problems Involving Money
- Measurement and Conversions
- Area and Perimeter

### Contact Info:

Mrs. Corcoran: [alcorcoran@aacps.org](mailto:alcorcoran@aacps.org)

Mr. Wells: [rnwells@aacps.org](mailto:rnwells@aacps.org)

Mrs. Boaten: [nboaten@aacps.org](mailto:nboaten@aacps.org)

Mrs. Whittington: [jewhittington@aacps.org](mailto:jewhittington@aacps.org)

# 5th Grade APRIL ●●●●●

## ●●●●● NEWSLETTER

Ms. Crockett & Mrs. Ramirez

tmcloudcrocket@aacps.org aramirez@aacps.org

Mrs. Edralin & Ms. Nelson

sedralin@aacps.org dnelson2@aacps.org

### REMINDERS

- Students need to bring their own headphones & Chromebooks charged everyday!
- M.C.A.P. testing will begin from April 15th to April 25th
- Students grades will be updated on Powerschool every week.

#### **\*\* New Grading Policy per PHES \*\***

Classwork redos will be allowed if students miss an assignment due to an excused absence or if they score below a 60%. If a student refuses to do an assignment, they will be given a 50% and will not be allowed to redo the assignment. For redos, the new and initial grade will be averaged to create the grade that goes into the gradebook. **\*\* Assessments cannot be redone \*\***

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1st - NO SCHOOL/SPRING BREAK

April 4th & 5th - Two hour early release

End of the 3rd Marking Period

April 8th - Beginning of the 4th Marking Period

April 12th - Quarter 3 Awards Assembly

April 10th - NO SCHOOL Eid al-Fitr

April 15th to 18th - ELA M.C.A.P

April 22nd to 25th - MATH M.C.A.P.

#### All Classes

iReady Reading Homework: 2 Lessons per week

iReady Math Homework: 3 Lessons per week

### WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

**Math:** The students have begun Unit 10 Multiply Fractions. Student will build their understanding of multiplying a fraction by a whole number and develop two processes for approaching the concept. We will be ending with Unit 10 CFA and begin Unit 11 Dividing Fractions. This lesson builds on earlier work with division and fractions to establish that a fraction describes an indicated division.

**Reading:** We will begin Theme 4: Creativity in IRA. Students can look forward to reading informational texts that inform about a wide range of topics. Students will use these texts to form questions and solve problems creatively!

**Writing:** Student are finishing up Unit 3 Writing of Literary Analysis and Opinion Writing. We will begin to learn the key features of Memoir Writing. Students will learn that content influences form and how to make decisions about the genre to best convey their content.

**Science:** We will be finishing up Q3 science with a CFA on how we can use data to prove that the weight of matter is conserved regardless of the type of change that occurs. For Quarter 4, students will be completing the engineering design process as they design and test water filter prototypes. They will then create a prototype to desalinate water. These engineering design challenges build on knowledge they learned in Unit 1.

**Social Studies:** Students will be starting the Challenges of American Economic, Political, and Civic Life. They will be from the 1900s till current. We will be exploring what were the educational opportunities for school age children in Anne Arundel County and how has the government evolved to expand the meaning of "We the People"?



# ACC

## april newsletter

### Reminders

- 3rd Grade and above will participate in alternate assessments in April!
- Keeping clothes and snacks stocked at school.
- Remember to sign your student's daily log and clean out their folders!

### This month's ACC goals

ACC1: Based on your student's IEP

ACC2: Solving addition problems using visual supports in math!

Creating a complete sentence using connecting words in ELA

Identifying key words in text in reading!

ACC3: Reading: Determine the beginning, middle, and end of a familiar text

Writing: Write opinions about topics or text

Math: Identify fractions including models of one half ( $1/2$ ) and one fourth ( $1/4$ ) and understand two fractions as equivalent ( $1/2 = 2/4$ )

### ACC 1

Ms. Smith will be back April 15th!

### ACC 2

Weekly spelling lists go home every Monday. This is the list of words your student will be working on reading, writing, and recognizing each week!

### ACC 3

We had a really great time learning about interesting jobs at Career Day on March 13th!

### Contact us!

ACC1 - [absmith@aacps.org](mailto:absmith@aacps.org)

ACC2- [aafournier@aacps.org](mailto:aafournier@aacps.org)

ACC3- [jhaughton@aacps.org](mailto:jhaughton@aacps.org)

## The Cultural Arts Corner!

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

**ART with Mrs. Long:** This month, students will discuss the use of primary sources and why they are great resources to use when conducting research. It is also National Poetry Month, and students will get the chance to explore poetry forms and read some poems from our poetry section in the library.

Contact information:

Mrs. Long - [aglong@aacps.org](mailto:aglong@aacps.org)

Ms. Bostwick - [abotswick@aacps.org](mailto:abotswick@aacps.org)

**GENERAL MUSIC with Mrs. Phelix:** April is here. Marking period 3 is coming to a close and we are entering marking period 4. It is so great to see the growth and creativity of all the students! The 4th marking period is a very exciting time for my 3rd grade music classes. We will be learning recorders!! The students will be given a recorder. The recorder will stay at school until closer to the end of the year. The students will go home with their recorder and some of the songs they have learned! The recorder enhances the students' music literacy skills, works on coordination, continues to engage students in the musical elements, and starts to develop breath support that is needed for woodwind instruments!

Contact information:

Mrs. Phelix - [kphelix@aacps.org](mailto:kphelix@aacps.org)

Mr. Poole - [srpoole@aacps.org](mailto:srpoole@aacps.org)

**PE with Mr. Armstrong:** During the month of April, students will complete units in: dribbling/ball control with hands (basketball dribbling), striking long handled implement (putting in golf), dribbling/ball control with an implement (hockey puck handling), and striking long handled implement (batting in baseball).

Contact information:

Mr. Armstrong - [starmstrong@aacps.org](mailto:starmstrong@aacps.org)

Mr. Beaty - [bbeaty@aacps.org](mailto:bbeaty@aacps.org)

**EEE with Ms. Gilbert:** In April, EEE will wrap up their 2nd unit for the year, and spring into their new ones. Each grade will focus all the skills they have been working on so far this year on a new topic:

5th Grade- Monuments and Tributes

4th Grade- Gift of the Arts

3rd Grade- Photography

2nd Grade- Groovy Garbage

1st Grade- Storytelling with Puppets

All EEE units focus on skillbuilding in one or more areas of the 4 C's of 21st Century Learning: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity & Critical Thinking.

Contact information:

Ms. Gilbert - [amgilbert@aacps.org](mailto:amgilbert@aacps.org)

Ms. Johnson - [kdjohnson@aacps.org](mailto:kdjohnson@aacps.org)

**MEDIA with Mrs. Reed:**

Contact Information:

Mrs. Reed - [glreed@aacps.org](mailto:glreed@aacps.org)

Ms. Wineke - [swineke@aacps.org](mailto:swineke@aacps.org)

**Our Music Program:**

Chorus: First I would like to congratulate all the students who were able to audition for the North Bay Music Camp. I am so proud of you. I am happy to announce that three of our 5th graders have been accepted to the camp! Congrats to Sofia A, Naomi N, and Jack L.

Second, chorus parents, you will be receiving an email with all the Baysox National Anthem Events Details. We are singing prior to the game on May 25th! Hope to see many of you there!

Third, remember to mark your calendars for our Spring Concert on May 28th!

Instrumental: April's instrumental music classes will have some adjustments to accommodate for our state testing schedule. Every effort will be made to have all music classes take place, but some days the schedule might not work for a particular group. Updates will be sent as required.

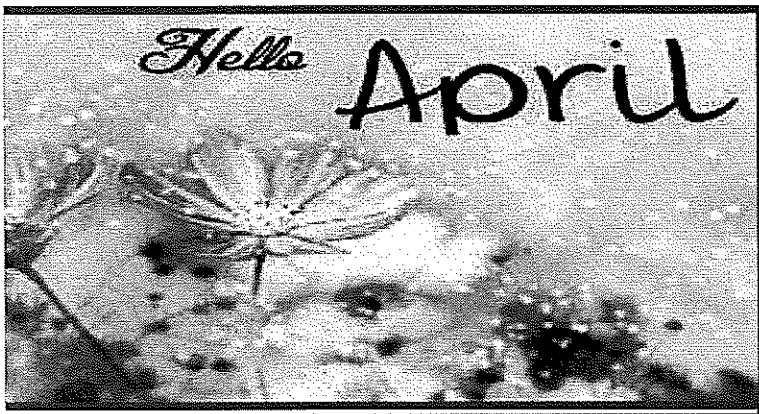
Be sure to mark your calendar for the Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 22.

Contact information:

Mrs. Phelix (chorus) - [kphelix@aacps.org](mailto:kphelix@aacps.org)

Mr. Lindberg (instrumental music) - [wlindberg@aacps.org](mailto:wlindberg@aacps.org)

# PHES Reading News



Robin Parker, Literacy Teacher

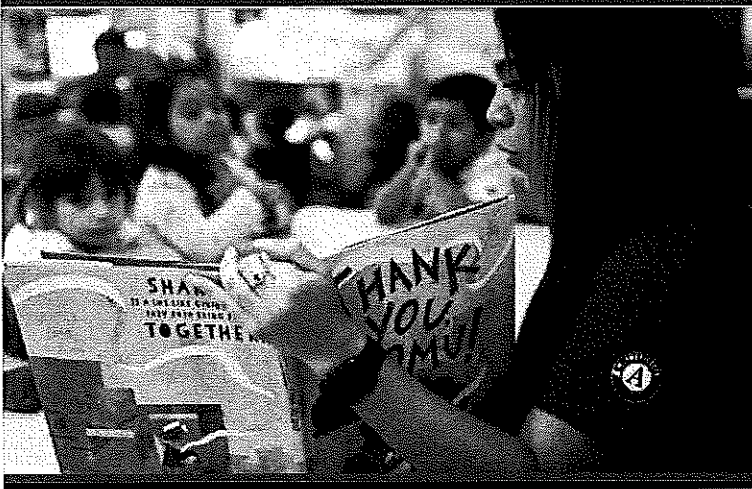
[rbparker@aacps.org](mailto:rbparker@aacps.org)

Corinne Herrera, Early Intervention Teacher

[cherrera@aacps.org](mailto:cherrera@aacps.org)

## ***April is National Poetry Month and the Month of the Military Child!***

This month we are planning some fun events to celebrate poetry. Our focus is to motivate students to read more and to enjoy reading. Research has shown that children who are motivated read more, have larger vocabularies and make achievement gains beyond their less motivated peers. Children are naturally drawn to humor, rhyme and rhythm and these are all found in poetry.



## ***At Home Poetry Activities***

**Read Poems to and with your child** - Add poems to your home reading routine. Share poems from your childhood. There are many great children's poetry websites and there are also poetry apps! If you are looking to expand your child's library, children's Poetry books can be purchased from online vendors and in bookstores, The local libraries also have plenty of poetry books that you can borrow.

### **Poetry Reading Suggestions**

**A Child's Book of Poems** by Gyo Fujikawaa

**The Random House Book of Poetry for Children**

**The New Kid on the Block** by Jack Prelutsky

## ***PHES April Reading Events***

***Pershing Hill will be celebrating the month of the Military Child and National Poetry Month!***

Poems will be shared daily on the morning announcements this month.

**Friday, April 5 - The Bowie Baysox Reading Logs are due** to your child's classroom teacher.

**Week of April 8th - 12th - Assist your child in finding a poem that he or she can read.** Take this week to practice reading the poem daily.

Teachers will also be asking students to practice reading their poems!

**Wednesday, April 17 - Poem in My Pocket Day -**

All staff will be participating and asking students at random to share their poems. Students will carry a copy of their favorite poem in their pocket to share when asked by peers or PHES staff.

## ***At Home Poetry Activities***

**Re-read Nursery Rhymes to and with your child. -**

Dust off those old books as nursery rhymes are no longer just for babies! Nursery Rhymes can help children develop an ear for language. Rhyme and rhythm highlight the sounds and syllables in words. Understanding sounds and syllables are building blocks in helping kids learn to read!

**Write a Poem with your child.** There are many different poetic forms to help guide in you in poetry writing. Do an online search for rhyming poems, acrostics, haikus, cinquains, or limericks to assist your child in writing a poem.



# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

## April

cmjackson@aacps.org  
Grade 1, 2, & 3  
(Pardoe/Scott)  
egelvar@aacps.org  
Grade 3 (Clements/Taylor)  
4, & 5

### Lessons

In April, students will be using the Xello program to learn more about College & Career Exploration. Primary grades will explore and research different types of careers. Secondary grades will explore career clusters and pathways.

### Career Day

A HUGE Thank YOU to our wonderful volunteers who helped make our career day a bright one! Our students had a wonderful time visiting and learning about different careers.

### Coffee w/ the Counselors

### MoMC

Month of the Military Child is this month! We can't wait to celebrate our military students all month long. Don't forget to #PurpleUp on April 19th!

Join Ms. Gelvar & Mrs. Jackson on April 9th at 8:15 AM for a discussion on the transition to middle school! 4th & 5th grade parents are encouraged to attend! Topics like communication and time management will be discussed!

### Anchored 4 Life

Ms. Gelvar kicked off Anchored 4 Life in March with 7 amazing Team Leaders! A4L is a peer-to-peer club to connect youth while building transition and resiliency skills. This year's service project will be dedicated to our wonderful military parents that are currently deployed.

If you have a loved one who would like a care package sent to their unit on behalf of PHES' A4L please email [egelvar@aacps.org](mailto:egelvar@aacps.org) with their name and address.

# Month of the Military Child Spirit Week

**BONUS DAY!**

**Tuesday  
April 15**

**Purple Up! for Military Kids**  
Join people across the nation wearing purple to recognize the sacrifices and strength of our military children.

**Monday  
April 22**

**PCS in Your Pajamas**  
Moving to a new duty station would be so much easier if we could do it in our pjs!

**Tuesday  
April 23**

**Hats Off to Military Kids**  
Wear a fun hat to school!

**Wednesday  
April 24**

**Come in Your Camo**  
We might have a hard time finding you at school today if you wear the right camouflage.

**Thursday  
April 25**

**Red, White and Blue!**  
Our military kids are patriotic. Show us your red, white & blue.

**Friday  
April 26**

**Welcome to Boot Camp!**  
Wear tees & gear from your favorite military branch or unit.

## Special Event:

On Friday, April 26th students will have an opportunity to participate in "Boot Camp", a fun series of obstacle courses and activities themed across our military branches. Look for opportunities to volunteer and more information soon.





# Pershing Hill PTA

We just wrapped up our annual Read-A-Thon Fundraiser. Throughout the two weeks, our amazing PHES families raised \$8,480 and read over 40,000 minutes! WAY TO GO READERS!!!

On March 19th the PTA hosted our last Unity Day staff lunch. Staff members were able to enjoy a wonderful sandwich bar with delicious desserts. Thanks to all who donated food and beverages to help make this lunch successful.

Nominations for the 2024-2025 school year executive board were announced at our March General Meeting. You may send additional nominations to the PTA email at [pershinghillmdpta@gmail.com](mailto:pershinghillmdpta@gmail.com) Current nominations are as follows: President - Tonya Starbeck, Vice President - Shamicha Yanes, Secretary - Rebekah Green, and Treasurer - Keri Leach.

The next PTA meeting will be held May 7th at 415pm in the Cafeteria.

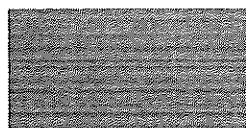
## Box Tops

You can support Pershing Hill PTA 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](mailto:pershinghillmdpta@gmail.com))

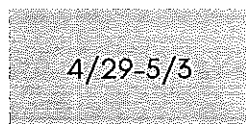
Got questions? Contact us at [PershinghillMDPTA@gmail.com](mailto:PershinghillMDPTA@gmail.com)



### IMPORTANT DATES



**Cold Stone Spirit Night 5pm-8pm**



**Scholastic Bookfair**



**Spring Fest 5pm-7pm**