

The Eagle Speaks

Volume 13 Issue 2

www.hurlock.dcpsmd.net

November/December 2016

November & December at Hurlock Elementary

November

- 8 School Closed – Election Day
- 21 Career Day grades 3-5
- 22 Early Dismissal: 12:30
- 23-27 School Closed

Happy Thanksgiving

December

- 2 Elementary Progress Report Day
- 5 Holiday Concert @ NDHS 7:00 p.m.
- 7 School Closed
Parent Conference Day
Conferences 10:30 – 5:30

December 22 – January 2
School Closed
Happy Holidays!

Jan. 3 Schools Reopen

DCPS Student Pledge

I will finish my program of study and
become college and career ready

Parent Visitors

We want parents to be part of their child's education and welcome you to visit Hurlock Elementary School. If you need to talk to a teacher, please make arrangements to visit school during the teacher's planning time or after the school day. Always remember to sign-in at the office.

First, a huge thank you to everyone who donated candy for our first **Trunk or Treat!** What a great event, that students and families seemed to really enjoy! Your donations made the event a success, so **THANK YOU!** Let us know your thoughts about changes for next year! The **People's Choice Award** for the best trunk went to **Little Red Riding Hood** with 26 votes. The winning trunk is shown below. See page 3 and Facebook for a few photos

Parent Conference Day will be tremendously important on December 7. Our standards Based Progress Reports will look very different from traditional report cards. Please make an effort to schedule a conference with your child's teachers. Send your reservation early; late afternoon time slots fill very quickly!

"Like us" on Facebook! Mr. Helgason adds photos and school events on a weekly basis.



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Concerns regarding the above are directed to Dwayne Abt, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, Dorchester County Public Schools, 700 Glasgow Street, Cambridge, Maryland, 21613, or by phone at 410-228-4747, extension 1015.

Family Math

Problem Solving

John Dewey states, "We only think when we are confronted with problems."

That statement says it all. For many years, evidence has continued to mount that problem solving is a powerful and effective way of learning. Problem solving is an integral part of all mathematics learning. Teachers provide instruction on the processes and strategies for how to solve problems. There are four steps in the Problem Solving process.

Step 1 - Understanding the problem. You must first figure out what the problem is about and what question or problem is being posed.

Step 2 - Devising a plan. You must think about how to solve the problem. Ask yourself, "What strategy will I use?"

Step 3 - Carrying out the plan/Solving the problem. You use one of the strategies to solve the problem.

Step 4 - Looking Back/Check. You check to make sure your answer is reasonable. Ask yourself, "Does my answer make sense?" If it doesn't, go back and reread to check your understanding of the problem and pick a different strategy to use to solve the problem.

Students are introduced to many strategies to help them solve problems. Through practice, students become more proficient with the various strategies. Some of the strategies students are introduced to and use are:

- Act it out
- Find and use patterns
- Use a model
- Create a picture/diagram
- Use logical deduction
- Guess and test answers
- Make a table/graph
- Create an organized list
- Work backwards
- Create simpler problem
- Write an equation

It is important to not make a student use a specific strategy. Teachers allow students to solve the problem in a way that makes the most sense to them and is best supported by their own reasoning. As students share their methods and thinking, it opens up new ways to approach and solve problems. Isn't it nice that we all don't have to solve something in the exact same way?

Caroline Marshall
Math Coach

Greetings, families and friends!

Our young artists have been busy! Every child has had an opportunity to create an entry for the Superintendent’s Holiday Card Contest. Winners will be notified sometime in November, and winners and their families will be invited to a Board of Education meeting early next year to receive their awards. Everyone should have received, signed and returned permission slips earlier this year that will allow your child to enter this and other contests and exhibits.

Young children have been learning about colors and lines, while older children have been working with proportion and perspective, which create the illusion of distance and make drawings look more realistic. Fifth grade in particular has been learning to use perspective to create 3D landscapes, creating the illusion that you can walk right into the picture!

The cold weather seems to have arrived, and the snuffle season with it. We would appreciate any donations of tissues and wipes for the art room. Any kind of wipes would be especially useful as we do not have a sink for hand or table washing. Thank you in advance for your help. It’s also time for my annual appeal for any holiday cards that you receive that you would like to dispose of. We use these for inspiration and for help with lessons involving some of the principles of design, such as pattern, contrast, emphasis and other concepts. Please continue to check future editions of the newsletter for information about coming exhibits and contests.

In closing, I’d like to wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Diane Meszaros
Art teacher

Great times at Trunk or Treat!



Pre-Kindergarten news Class of 2030

October has been a busy month in PreK! We are continuing to work on routines as well as social skills. One of the most important parts of PreK is learning to work with others and follow simple directions!

We wanted to share some easy ideas for you to help nurture your child's growing mind during mealtimes, outings and any time you see a teaching moment in their daily routine! After all, you were their first teacher! Below are some quick ideas that will really help your child stop and think about the world around them while you help build their vocabulary and working memory:

1. When you are out running errands, put your child in charge of the list. Have them help you list a few things you need to do that day. When you finish each task, help your child cross it off.
2. When you're waiting at a stoplight or sign, point out different things going on around you. Ask your child why they think someone is walking instead of driving a car or where they think the big dump truck is going. Have them speak to you in complete sentences!
3. When you are doing laundry, have your child help you match the socks. Ask them to help match by size. Then change the rules and ask them to match by color. Count how many sets of socks you have. Have a back and forth conversation about what you are doing.

Looking Ahead:

We are in the planning stages of a 'Raising a Reader' information night. Please watch for a flyer to come home soon giving you the date and time!

Answers to Reading at Home quiz: 1. False, you just have to hear or see them read (but you can sit with them if you want). 2.True 3.True 4.True 5. False, they only fill in 2 book titles for 2 steps which equals 30 minutes of reading. 6. True

Keeping it "REAL" at Hurlock Elementary

We are sending a big thank you to families who attended our spaghetti dinner fundraiser. It was a great event and proceeds will fund monthly events and other PBIS initiatives for students.

Please make sure you are checking your child's *Passport to Success* for information on their social and behavioral progress.

HES is a box top collection school. Currently, our fifth graders are in the lead and have brought in the most box tops this school year. The grade level that brings in the most by November 22nd will earn the privilege of a hat day.

There will be no at home family project in the month of November.

Our December at home family project is themed "Blast Off Into A New Year: 2017 Here We Come". Students who design a spaceship craft will earn 5 eagle points/bucks. Projects are due December 20.



**Kindergarten news
Class of 2029**

It is hard to believe we are already heading into the month of November!! We are continuing to work hard in Kindergarten! In Math for October, we have really dug into number recognition and beginning to add on one more. We have also been working on learning our letter sounds and are more than halfway through the alphabet. Kindergarten students have also enjoyed trips to the Fire house and the Pumpkin Patch!

As we look forward to November and December, we will be finishing up learning the letter sounds and will begin to make and read basic CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as 'bat'. Be on the lookout for the Parent instructions in our homework packets for how to tap out words the way we teach this in the Foundation program. In math we will be revisiting our shapes unit which includes 2 and 3 dimensional shapes.

As the holidays approach, it is still important for our students to continue to have a structured and predictable environment and well-established expectations both at home and at school. This will help us to provide optimal learning time despite the busyness and distractions of the holidays.

A few reminders:

- You should be checking your child's agenda and homework binder nightly!
- Be sure to initial the behavior chart in your child's agenda nightly!
- You can always find your child's Specials schedule on the bottom of the weekly homework sheet found inside your child's agenda.
- **Snacks are due at the beginning of each month.**
- Please check your child's extra clothes to make sure that are appropriate for the changing seasons. Warmer clothes are needed now.

As always we strive to provide your child with an environment that will promote critical thinking, communication, problem solving and responsible citizenship. Thank you for working **together with us** to provide a successful and enjoyable year for your child.

News from the Music Room

The Holiday Concert for grades K, 1, 2 and 4th and 5th grade band members will be held on **Monday, December 5th at North Dorchester High School beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Students can wear any color outfits to celebrate the holiday season. Girls be careful of skirt length because we will be singing up on the stage. Girls need to have outfits without spaghetti straps or wear a sweater to cover the straps.**

Third grade -All third-grade students need to bring in a folder to hold their flutophone music. We will be getting new music all year and the students need a folder to build their flutophone lesson booklet. The music will be 3 hole punched to fit into a folder with a center paper clip.

The Band - Please make sure that your band student is practicing consistently 4 times a week for 20 minutes or more. If your child begins to show improvement each week the points will add up to win the trophy at the end of the year. E - Exceeded the standard is 4 points, M- Mastered the standard is 3 points, A - Approaching the standard is 2 points and N- Needs Improvement is 1 point. **Please remember that band is a graded class. Demonstrating some improvement or recognition of material covered each week is a major part of the final band grade. Band students can write down their homework each week in the front of their band books. Band is graded on attendance, bringing all materials to class both instrument and lesson books, showing steady progress and completing homework which is practicing the assigned lesson at home during the week and completing written counts for notes and rests that they play in each song.**

The more time the students spend studying the more fun and success they will experience.

**First grade news
Class of 2028**

Thank you to all of the parents who came out to Parent Conferences. It is always a great opportunity for teachers and parents to share thoughts and ideas and answer any questions.

In Foundations, we are moving right along! We are introducing new concepts and continuing to work on tapping to spell, tapping to read and making sentences. Please continue to work with your child at home with the work we are sending home!

In Reading, we are about to begin Theme 3, "Let's Look Around." We will be working on identifying main idea and details in nonfiction texts as well as character, setting, problem, and solution in fiction texts. We have also been working on identifying the differences between fiction and nonfiction.

In Math, we are continuing with our work with story structures. We are also going to begin working with fact families and turn around facts or related equations. We have also begun working with time to the hour on analog and digital clocks.

As a reminder, students are bringing home their agendas and boomerang folders every night. Please continue to check these both every night for notes, homework, and paperwork that may need to be returned. Also, keep in mind; the agendas are a great way to communicate with us! Additionally, the weather is beginning to get colder and the temperature can be unpredictable in the classrooms. Please make sure students are dressed in layers and have a coat. We are still going outside for recess when possible and students should be wearing a coat to keep warm on chillier days.

**Second Grade News
Class of 2027**

Thank you to all parents who attended the Fall Festival. It was a huge success. We appreciate all your involvement and continued support. The holiday season will soon be upon us and we understand that everyone will be extremely busy. Please make sure to have your child read for 30 minutes daily and record the steps on the reading log.

In Math students continue to work on solving problems involving addition and subtraction. Please continue to help them practice their basic fact strategies. They will also learn how to count money. If you have some loose change at home, have them count it for you.

This trimester our Science unit involves investigating physical changes in matter (solid to liquid and liquid to solid) and determining what physical properties work best when making certain objects.

Don't forget that the weather is changing. It may be cool in the morning and warmer in the afternoon. Please dress them appropriately. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Third grade news Class of 2026

Third grade is continuing the first trimester here at Hurlock Elementary. In Reading we are enhancing our comprehension of the story by referring to the text for specific details. Please support your child as he or she is practicing this skill by asking questions about what was read and having them show you where in the text he or she located his or her answer.

In Social Studies, we will soon begin learning about citizenship and government. In Math, we are practicing how to multiply and divide using several strategies, as well as continuing to work with fractions beyond one whole. Have your child show you how they can partition a number line into fractional pieces. Please also continue having your child practice his or her math facts daily. A great way to practice facts is for your child to use the First in Math website at www.firstinmath.com.

Remember to have your child complete 2 steps on his or her reading log every night, as well as the weekly math paper. Be sure to look over your child's homework and sign the agenda nightly as well. As the weather begins to turn cooler, please make sure your child is adequately dressed for the day's weather.

Fourth grade news Class of 2025

Many students have earned their first medals and new folders for reaching 100 steps. That is a total of 25 hours reading! Students will continue to earn 2 steps every day in school. They are expected to be reading 2 steps at home every week night. Please make sure that you see your child read and sign their Reading Log for each step. Our students are very excited about reading and earning steps. During reading conferences, we are setting Power Goals for each student. Students know that they need to focus on their Power Goal when reading. Ask your child about their Power Goal.

In Social Studies we are learning about the founding of the colony of Maryland. One of our focuses will be determining the main idea of a selection and giving support. We will also be learning about chronological order as we focus on the history of Maryland.

In Math, we will be working on multiplication. Students will complete multiplication problems using an area model or decomposing numbers. These strategies are outlined in the new common core curriculum. Students will also work on dividing using an expanding strategy. These math strategies are different from the standard algorithm and allow your child to develop a stronger mathematical understanding. As well as, continuing to work on multi-step word problems, and reviewing previous skills from the trimester.

In Science, we will be talking about types of waves, and how waves move and change. Students will be utilizing the Discovery Education website resources to explore this topic.

* Math facts practice is assigned daily for homework. Please try and have your student complete the problems in the time written on the edge of the paper. This is the best way to practice for their weekly strategy checks.

Fifth grade news Class of 2024

We cannot believe that our first trimester is nearly over! In reading we will continue our reading challenge. Remember, students should be reading 2 steps each night to reach and maintain the daily goal. **Reading logs should be signed nightly and returned daily along with any books borrowed.** Weekend reading or additional nightly steps are encouraged to catch-up students that are behind the daily target. In reading, we have started working with informational texts. This will continue into our Social Studies unit that teaches about our land and first people. After the holiday break, we will go back to reading fictional stories and address literary standards.

In Math, students have been working on plotting ordered pairs on a coordinate grid. In the coming weeks, we will be working on multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers. After the holiday break, they will begin multiplying and dividing decimals.

In science, students are learning how and why organisms interact with their environment and what are the effects of these interactions? This year students are doing a lot of technology-based lessons using Discovery Education's Science Techbook.

As the weather gets colder, please be sure to send children to school with jackets or sweatshirts. We try to go outside for recess every day, so please be sure they are prepared. Also, continue to check your child's book bag and agenda for important information.



Update

Reading at Home

Parents, can you answer the statements below? (Answer True or False)

1. I must sit down with my child while he/she reads. **True/False**
2. 1 step = 15 minutes of reading. **True/False**
3. My child should be reading every night for 30 minutes. **True/False**
4. I should sign my child's reading log **ONLY** if I've seen or heard them reading. **True/False**
5. My child should write down **EVERY** book he/she reads. **True/False**
6. My child can earn **EXTRA** steps over the Thanksgiving break. **True/False**

Can you find the answers in another section of this newsletter?

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