

## The Hawk Highlights.....



### Principal's Greetings.....

Happy New Year High Bridge Families!

Well the Holidays are over and we are back into the swing of school. January is all about formal mid –year assessments at all grade levels. We as a school want to see the depth of growth your children have achieved since the beginning of the school year. For example Kindergarten-Third Grade students will take the DIEBELS assessment. This assessment measures student's fluency and literacy skills. Students in Grades K-5 will take the Reading and Math Benchmark exams and I-Ready to determine their academic skills. In Grade 5, students will take the FAST Science Exam. This exam assesses student's knowledge of the curriculum which was taught over time based on the Maryland Common Core State Standards. The ESOL students will take an exam called ACCESS. This also measures comprehension, fluency, and accuracy as well.

As we embark on the second half of the school year, please ensure your child is prepared every day for school. Including having their masks. Encourage your child that mask wearing is necessary for the health and safety of all. We want to ensure all students are safe and secure while at school., especially during the cold and flu season. We will do our best to mitigate any problems by continuing to emphasize frequent hand washing, keeping masks up including the nose area, and maintaining safe distances when possible.

We are in this together, let's keep each other safe. Remember...it takes a village!

We have much in store in 2023 so stay tuned!!!

William J. Kelly, Ed. D.

**No-more tears:** *Homework time may be easier. Use these tips to assist your students do their work without fuss:*

- ◆ Tell your student to decide when to do homework within a set time frame– say, between 4 p.m. And dinner. Putting them in charge will motivate them to begin.

**New Beginnings:** It's time to rework your student's routine. The new year is always a perfect time to review your student's school routines and try to fine tune them. Use these tips to assist your students for the next five months:

- ◆ Keep track of your student's **assignments**. Students in grades 3 through 5 have daily planners. Students in K –2 may have different system per teacher preference. (However, If you are not certain please contact your child's teacher).
- ◆ Class notes can be very challenging for students. Have your child look over his/her system for organizing class notes. Try different colored folders for the second half of the year, he or she could put notes for each subject in them.



## Kindergarten Highlights!!!!

January has begun and with it has come a new year and new learning goals for our Kindergarteners. In Reading we are currently focused on the rules we have at home and at school, reading more informational texts, and learning to answer questions with evidence from the text. We are working hard on our writing as we continue to put words into sentences and sound out words on our own using phonetic spelling. We will also begin to build on our writing skills as we write stories of our own and explore why people tell stories in the first place. In Math we will continue to practice addition and identify addition situations. We will push our minds further and begin to practice subtraction and learn to identify those situations, as well. In Social Studies we will represent personal and American history, learn about American Heroes, and understand how things change over time. In Science we will wrap up the Earth and Space Science unit by learning about different types of severe weather, how to predict severe weather, and how to prepare for it. We're excited to see the growth the second half of this school year has in store for these scholars. We're confident they will continue to S.O.A.R. As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

## Fabulous First Grade!

**January is here and first grade is ready for a new year with learning! We will continue into unit 4 with making predictions about stories, sequencing events, and finding details using text evidence. In math we will practice skills in unit 5, measurement and time, and apply addition and subtraction to make connections that promote real-world understanding. In social studies, we will continue to investigate how technology affects our world and how each culture celebrates their traditions. In science, we will use the scientific process to investigate matter and how light and sound move through objects. We will test this month for sight word recognition and math speed practice (facts to 10) and check for growth, so keep up the practice! Please support us by using games and flash cards in Canvas. Practice reading sight words lists, reading books to retell events and expressing ideas found in the story pictures. Let's have a fabulous winter and keep up the great homework and reading for our monthly book logs. Your help with editing homework and reading with your child each evening is appreciated! It's a gift that you can give to help your child grow and learn.**

## Second Grade News!!!

Happy New Year!!

We hope that everyone had a happy and safe winter break. The Second Graders are eager to learn as we begin 2023. It is hard to believe that the 2nd marking period will soon be ending in just a few more weeks. Time is going by so quickly.

This month in Language Arts, we are continuing Module 2: Look Around and Explore! Our Essential Question for this module is: How does exploring help us understand the world around us? We are reading a play called the puddle Puzzle and learning about dramas. Soon, we will be writing our own opinion essays.

In Science, we are studying how the surface of the earth can change slowly due to weathering and erosion. We will also explore ways to prevent or slow these changes.

During January, we are learning about traditions and the past in Social Studies. We are enjoying comparing today to long ago. We are learning how much things have changed over the years.

In Health we are learning about what happens when we feel afraid, and how we can respond to fear in healthy ways.

This month, in Math, we are learning how to subtract two digit numbers. We will use many real-life story problems to learn this important skill. Thank you for continuing to help the students practice their time and money skills. We really appreciate all of your help and support.



**Reading:** As Third Grade begins the New Year of 2023, we are approaching the end of Quarter 2. Help your child refresh and renew by looking at the Growth Mindset. Students will set new goals by beating their Fall I-Ready and Benchmark scores. Stay focus, keep a positive attitude, and continue with great academic and soaring behavior expectations. Students will step-up and maintain their **Independent Work** such as homework. This develops classroom pride and responsibility. In reading Third grade continues to examine Fiction with character traits, critical vocabulary, and supporting text evidence. We are focusing on opinion and persuasive essay writing using online opportunities plan supported by reasons, evidence, and examples from the text. **Science:** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, students continue to determine the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object and the cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other. They will then be able to apply their understanding of magnetic interactions to define a simple design problem that can be solved with magnets. **Social Studies:** We will discover the geographic make-up of our world and explore the following questions:

What are the geographic features on earth?

How do people affect the environment? / How do land and water change from place to place? / How does climate affect the land, plants, and animals? / How are natural resources used?

How did people in the southwest use the land to help them?

**MATH:** During the month of January, in math class we will finish the unit 3.5 Expanding multiplication and moving on to the next unit 3.6 Extending Multiplication. In Unit 3.6 Extending Multiplication, students will begin the unit by applying their understanding of the distributive property to multiplying by factors between 10 and 20. They will focus on using place value understanding in deciding how to break one factor up into two addends. They will apply the associative and distributive properties and place value understanding to multiply single-digit numbers by multiples of ten. They will continue to build towards fluency with single-digit multiplication, and use this fluency to multiply by multiples of ten.

## Fourth Grade Happenings!!!!

The Fourth Grade Classes are engaged in some rigorous but stimulating activities as we return from the winter break.

**ELA: HELLO, FAMILY!** Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about natural wonders, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about what makes Earth's natural wonders exciting and unique. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre, such as it gives facts and information about a topic. Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together. **Build Vocabulary:** Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary. Reinforce the topic by using words like scenic, landscape, canyon, and landform in conversations with your child. Use prompts like: What is your favorite landform, and why? Describe a landscape. Have your child keep a growing list of the critical vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings. **MATH:** Unit 5 in fourth-grade math is all about fractions. Students are learning to read, write, compare, compose, decompose, add, subtract and find equivalent fractions. Students are learning about benchmark fractions and how to justify their answers using those fractions. Please take time to add your child into your kitchen routine, so that they can learn real-world examples of how to use fractions. Looking forward to ending this unit with a BANG! **Science:** As we head into January, we will be exploring Earth's natural resources. We will look at renewable vs. nonrenewable resources and how this applies to humans and our environment. As young scientists, we will be asking questions, solving problems, and exploring the world around us! **Health:** This month we are making healthy decisions for our bodies and staying smoke-free! That's right, we are learning about the effects of tobacco and how we can make good decisions for a smoke-free body.

**Social Studies:** This month we will look deeper into Maryland's past and present. We will explore what life was like for early colonists in Maryland, and how the lives and viewpoints of Marylanders have changed throughout history.

## Fifth Grade News Flash!!!!!!

Happy New Year to all of our 5th grade families! We hope you had a relaxing and safe winter break and we are excited to welcome back our students to finish off the second quarter. Believe it or not, the second quarter is almost coming to an end. There are only a few short weeks left, which means that students need to take the time now to ensure that work is completed and turned in for credit. During the last week of the quarter, late work is not accepted in order to give teachers time to grade and update **Schoolmax**. This means that students need to take the next two weeks to reflect on and complete any work missing to have time to submit it for grading. If you are unsure about which assignments are missing, please check **Schoolmax** Family Portal to see the most up to date view of student progress.

As we work towards the end of the second quarter, students will still be introduced to new concepts and skills. In **Math**, unit 4 focuses on the concepts that: multiplication and division of two numbers will produce the same digits, regardless of the position of the decimal point; and the patterns for the placement of the decimal point and the number of zeros when multiplying or dividing decimals by whole numbers, including powers of 10, can be understood through reasoning about place value. Unit 5 focuses first on multiplication of decimals by decimals, and then division of decimals by decimals. These computations are investigated using concrete models, calculators, and drawings, and arise from a variety of problem situations. This unit emphasizes estimation and understanding of place value in order to determine placement of the decimal point.

For **Reading**, we will be exploring the genre of mystery to prepare students for ultimately composing mysteries of their own at the end of the module. We will evaluate character traits, identify evidence to support our thinking, and continue tasks to build our comprehension and written response skills. For **Social Studies**, we are wrapping up our Document Based Question (DBQ) task to analyze evidence related to the colony of Jamestown. Next, students will begin to explore the history of the American Revolution as they uncover the steps taken to establish this country and our government. We are looking forward to all of the fun learning opportunities to come this month!

Hello parents/guardians!

The Music Notes Newsletter will update you on musical happenings for the current month in all General and Special Education Music classes.

Be sure to watch for additional notes in upcoming HBES Newsletters!

Musically yours,  
Mrs. Clarke

## **Music Notes**

The musical concepts that will be covered during the month of January for the following grades are:

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Grade***

***Students will be able to:***

- Define Sharp, Flat, and Natural
- Recognize the major scales of C, F, and G
- Perform a short improvisation based on the G major scale

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Grade***

***Students will be able to:***

- Identify and write whole, half, quarter, eighth notes and rests, and beamed sixteenth notes
- Recognize dotted quarter notes
- Define Tie

### ***3rd Grade***

***Students will be able to:***

- Describe how melodies move by steps, skips, and repeated notes
- Perform a four measure improvisation using the extended pentatonic scale
- Play the notes B and A on the recorder

A letter was sent home on November 28th with 3rd grade students requesting \$3 for their recorder payment. Please send the exact change (\$3) or a check made out to High Bridge Elementary School if you have not paid for your child's recorder.

## ***2nd Grade***

### ***Students will be able to:***

- Describe how meters help us count beats and play rhythms by organizing them into measures
- Recognize that rhythm can be felt best when we sing, play instruments, or move to music with a steady beat
- Improvise over a simple ostinato within a song

## ***1<sup>st</sup> Grade***

### ***Students will be able to:***

- Play a simple ostinato within a song
- Define Pitch
- Describe how vibrations affect the chest and face when using the voice

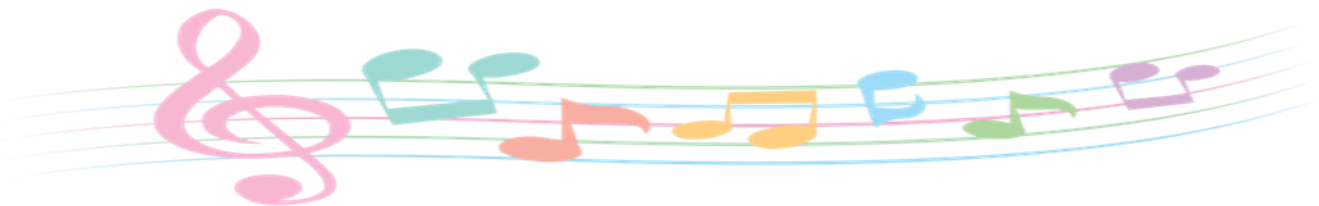
## ***Kindergarten***

### ***Students will be able to:***

- Distinguish between high and low sounds in a song
- Sing a song using high and low pitches
- Demonstrate high and low pitches by moving to a song

## **Adaptive Music**

Students in CSEP and CRI classes will learn many of the same concepts in ways that are meaningful to them. Students in CRI will do more movement activities and instrument playing.





**PGCPS**

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[www1.pgcps.org/highbridge](http://www1.pgcps.org/highbridge)  
– A great place to find the school calendar, frequently asked questions, current events, and websites for enrichment and intervention!

### **Terrific TAG News**

#### **Happy New Year!**

Our program is a pull out TAG program. The students are joined with an instructor two hours per week for enrichment activities following the TAG curriculum. There will be guest speakers and field trips this year as well! Look for more news on our website and in newsletters to catch a glimpse of all the hard work these students are doing.

In our talented and gifted program the students are extending their knowledge in specific areas. The Primary students explored how to use various materials to create a skyline visual. Next students will complete an independent study on polymer compounds. They will culminate their learning by making slime using varied ingredients.

In intermediate the students will be exploring "Profiles in Perseverance", which will give them an opportunity to explore how real people have demonstrated perseverance in a variety of ways. Students will be introduced to a diverse group of people who have persevered to provide real-world connection and understanding of cultural diversity. Throughout this unit of study students will participate in collaborative discussions and complete projects to demonstrate their knowledge of "perseverance".

All of the testing for TAG has been completed for the year. Results should be coming in the next few months. A letter will come home with your child.



**TAG** TALENTED AND GIFTED PROGRAMS

### **Important Dates**

#### **To Remember:**

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**January 16, 2023  
Martin Luther King  
Day  
(Schools and Offices  
Closed)**

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**January 24, 2023  
End of the 2nd Quarter  
Marking Period**

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**January 25, 2023  
3 Hour Early Dismissal  
(Asynchronous  
Learning)**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

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