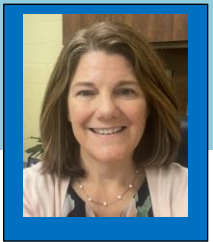




# Royce-Williams Elementary School

## March 2023



### A Message from Mrs. Martino

March brings us longer daylight and the start of warmer days, although February has had some pretty warm days! We are also half-way through the third quarter of school. Please take this time to ensure you have a clear academic understanding of your child. Your child's teacher recently sent home the mid-year data for both your child's progress on the Reading Inventory and the Math Inventory. Please make sure you take the time to review this document and reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions. Additionally, if your student is in grades 3-5, make sure you are checking Home Access Center (HAC) often to see their grades. You can check it many times during the quarter as there are several upload dates for grades in each content area throughout the quarter. This helps you to keep track of how your child is doing academically throughout the quarter. If your child is in Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, make sure you are reaching out to your child's teacher if you are unsure how they are progressing.

Please keep in mind, April begins our State Testing for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Single has sent home a calendar with dates when each grade level will be testing in both April and May. Please refrain from scheduling doctor appointments and/or vacations during this time. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Please make sure you visit Royce-Williams Elementary's Facebook page. We post happenings at school and pictures of our students and staff hard at work. Also, please update your phone number with the office if it changes. You can also go on the portal to determine which type of delivery you would like (email or phone call), so please make sure you update phone numbers if needed and choose what mode of delivery you would like for school-wide and County communication: <https://hcpsparentconnect.bbcportal.com/>.

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – HAC Update**

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – House Day – Early Dismissal for Students 12:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – 3:45-5:30pm Joe Corbi's/Claire's Fundraiser Pickup and PTA Meeting at RWES 6:30pm**

**Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – HAC Update**

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – House Day - Early Dismissal for Students 12:30pm, HAC Update**





Pre-K



- Define characters
- **Letters** Mm, Nn, Vv, (identify, construct, tell sound)
- **Snap words** will, at (read word, build word, copy word)
- Pencil Grip
- **Draw and label/write on a topic of choice.**  
(use lowercase letters with proper spacing)



- Copy and extend patterns.
- **Number 7 and 8**  
(Identify, make sets, sequence)
- **Identify numbers before and after**
- Counting on from a given number
- **10 Frame**  
(Count and show quantities)
- **Simple addition and subtraction**  
with use of counters

- **Early Dismissal (12:30pm)**  
3-10-22 Wear House Team color.
- Wear Sneakers Everyday.
- Check Class Tag Daily.



March:

16 th Thea M

30 th Magnolia B.

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Happy March! May the Luck O' the Irish be with you!



### Units of Study:

**Math:** Topic 10-Compose and Decompose Numbers 11-19 and Topic 11-Count Numbers to 100

**Reading:** Boosting Reading Power

**Phonics:** Vowel Power

**Writing:** How-To Books: Writing to Teach Others

**T.U.B.:** Wellness

### We have a few reminders:

1. **Update clothes...**be prepared...the weather is unpredictable!
2. **Water bottles:** Yes please! But be careful they DO NOT LEAK.
3. **Yellow - Take-Home Folders:** Please check, student completes homework, and return.
4. **Tuesday Folders:** Please check, empty, and return.
5. **Chromebook practice:** Can your young scholar log all the way on WITHOUT adult support?
6. **Chromebook charging:** Please, please, please do this nightly!
7. **Black book pouches:** These are our books to read every night. Please make sure they are returned daily so that the books can be changed out!
8. **Sneakers:** Boots keep us warm, but sneakers let us climb the equipment! Students can pack their sneakers in their backpack for easy access for P.E. and recess. (We go outside, even when it is cold, around 40°.) You can also check your Inclement Weather button on Canvas to find out what days your child has P.E.

As always, we are here with you and for you!

Your kindergarten teachers,

Mrs. Kalmanovich, Mrs. Docteur, Ms. Richardson, and Mrs. White





# Our First Grade Classroom News

March 2023

Ms. Beard, Ms. Haney, and Mrs. Mann

## **Message From Our Team:**

It's hard to believe that we are over  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through the school year! In February we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We are so proud of how much all our first graders have grown this year! We are starting to prepare them for second grade because it will be that time before we know it!



## **Reminders:**

Please make sure that your student arrives at school with a charged computer. We are starting to use our computers more each week for many educational activities. Also, please, make sure your student is coming to school with tennis shoes. To participate in outdoor recess, they must be wearing tennis shoes.

## **Supporting Your Student at Home:**

Please make sure that your child is reading every night at home. Also, we are learning new snap words every week and still doing our snap word celebrities. Have your child practice reading and writing their snap words at home. For math have your child continue to practice counting to 120. They can count by 1's or 10's. Also have them practice their addition and subtraction facts. Having good fact fluency will help them build a good math foundation for years to come!

## **What We Are Learning This Month:**

**Reading:** As readers, we are monitoring what we are reading as we read, building meaning, and working on decoding words and reading fluently.

**Math:** As mathematicians, we are comparing two-digit numbers and beginning to add two-digit numbers!

**Writing:** As writers, we will be writing reviews!

**Social Studies/Science:** In Science, we will be learning about life science!

# Second Grade News



## MATH

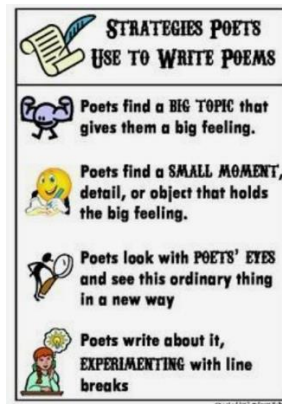
We just finished up **Topic 7—More Solving Problems Involving Addition and Subtraction**. We have now started **Topic 9—Numbers to 1,000** and will be moving onto **Topic 10—Add Within 1,000 Using Models and Strategies**.

Attached is a link to virtual manipulatives for your child to use at home (they are used to using the hundred charts, two-colored counters, tens frames, part-part-whole, and number bonds), but they may use any manipulative that will help them with their homework and math practice.

- + [CLICK HERE](#) to access virtual math manipulatives.
- + [CLICK HERE](#) to access online math games on **Math Playground**. We suggest choosing games that practice addition and subtraction skills.
- + [CLICK HERE](#) to access games on **Fun Brain**.

## WRITING

We will be wrapping up our current writing unit **Writing About Reading** and starting our new unit in writing: **Poetry!**



## PHONICS

We are so proud of our students for being master word builders in our current Phonics Unit—**Word Builders: Construction, Demolition, and Vowel Power**. In this unit, students use what they know about spelling patterns to break up big, long, and complex words to say and spell.

Also, please continue to support your child in practicing their **Snap Word Celebrity** levels. For each level, students are expected to read each word and spell it. Reach out to your child's teacher so you know what level they are on. [CLICK HERE](#) to access each word list.

## READING

We have finished our **Winter reading assessments** and we are so proud of all the growth our students have made since the beginning of the year. Your child's teacher should have sent home their mid-year assessment scores. If you did not receive them, please reach out to their teacher.

This month we will be starting our new reading unit **Stepping into the World of the Story**. In this unit, we will continue building our stamina to read longer fiction books.

Please make sure your child is reading a minimum of 20 minutes each night and getting their reading log signed. If you need a new reading log, reach out to your child's teacher.

- + [CLICK HERE](#) to access read aloud books from **Storyline Online**.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- + As the weather is getting warmer (and fluctuates), please, if possible, send your child in with a zip-up jacket/sweatshirt to store in their locker.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEB.

- + **MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>**—Early Dismissal Day
- + **MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>**—PTA Meeting (RWES) @ 6:30
- + **MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**—Early Dismissal Day


Any questions? Please reach out to your child's teacher via ClassTag or email.

**Ms. Cox** – emily.cox@hcps.org

**Mrs. Kent** – teaira.kent@hcps.org

**Mrs. Nasuta** – melody.nasuta@hcps.org

**Mrs. Prichard** – jamie.prichard@hcps.org



# THIRD GRADE

MARCH 2023

## READING AND WRITING UNITS OF STUDY

Students are currently in Character studies where they have been learning the how to dive deeper and ask questions to learn more about them. They will be starting a classroom book club in a few short weeks with their peers where they will read and collaborate about their character.

For writing, students will continue writing "Baby Literary" Essays where they will be sharing their opinion about the characters in their books with details and strong evidence.

## MATH

Students are now Topic 9 where the focus is 3-digit addition and subtraction.

Students should also continue working on their math fact fluency! We will continue working on mastery before they head to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. First in Math is a great resource that they can assess at home.


Lastly, students should be spending time at home on Dreambox. This targets your student's specific needs.

## SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

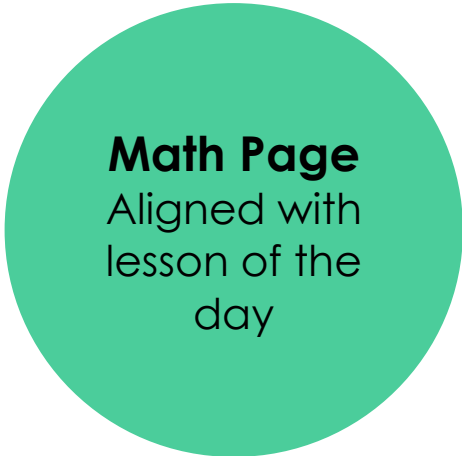
Students are finishing up their unit about physical science. They have learned all about forces, magnets, and static electricity. They will be putting their engineering minds to work for a final project using all they have learned.

We will be finishing their unit all about economics where they have been reading a book about Danny who is becoming a millionaire.

## REMINDER OF HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS



**Reading**  
20 minutes  
nightly



**Math Page**  
Aligned with  
lesson of the  
day



**Math  
Support**  
  
Dreambox

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News!

It's March and testing month is almost here! Let's see what we've been up to preparing for MCAP!

We are finishing up our Historical Fiction book clubs and they have been SO fun! Students have been working in clubs learning about our history and growing as readers.

In writing we finished up our Historical Fiction stories and they turned out AMAZING! Our students really got creative and wrote stories that should be published one day.

FRACTIONS, OH NO! Just kidding, we love fractions and our students just finished up learning how to add and subtract them and turning improper fractions into mixed numbers. This unit is tons of fun and takes our math skills to the next level.

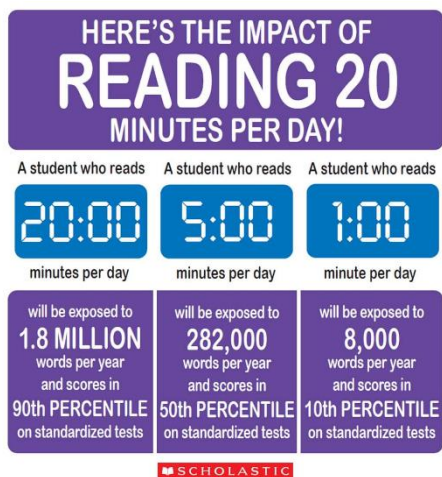
We know our students are going to be well prepared for MCAP!



# March Fifth Grade Newsletter!

We are well underway in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter! School is just flying by. Please make sure you are checking HAC and keeping up with your child's grades as we are moving through the semester. If you have any questions about grades, please contact your child's teacher.

In math, we are working on Unit 9 dividing fractions. We encourage students to complete any math homework that is sent home, it will help them understand concepts in the future!



In reading, that have a book bag that they will bring home each night. PLEASE make sure they bring it back and forth. They are encouraged to read at home each night for a half hour. Our reading unit is Historical books clubs/Civil Rights. When your students are at home, they can read a book of their choice!

In writing, we are focusing on Lens of History writing. They will be learning how to research a historical event using books, videos, and other forms of media. T. As they progress the students will be writing 5 paragraph essays with a thesis statement.

Our **MISA TESTING** will be March 14-17<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that your child attends each session and is not late for school. With standardized testing season upon us attendance is crucial!

As Always, the grading scale is below. Questions? Please contact your homeroom teacher

**All grade levels please note competency guide below:**

Primary	Intermediate	
<b>CE</b>	<b>A/B</b>	<b>Consistently completes work independently and applies grade level skills taught independently. Students are on or above grade level.</b>
<b>EV</b>	<b>B/C</b>	<b>With minimal prompting, completes work and applies grade level skills taught. Students are on grade level.</b>
<b>DV</b>	<b>C/D</b>	<b>Teacher support is necessary to complete daily classwork and to apply skills taught. Students are on or approaching grade level.</b>
<b>NE</b>	<b>D/E</b>	<b>Students require adult support and prompting to complete daily tasks. Students are below grade level.</b>

Contact:

[Sara.Xakellis@hcps.org](mailto:Sara.Xakellis@hcps.org)

[Madison.Diventi1@hcps.org](mailto:Madison.Diventi1@hcps.org)

[Kersten.Kirkendall@hcps.org](mailto:Kersten.Kirkendall@hcps.org)

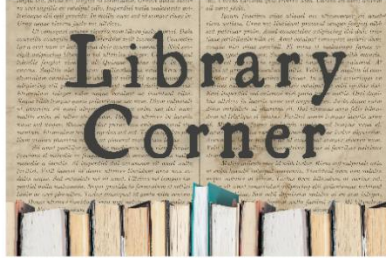
[Eileen.Dixon@hcps.org](mailto:Eileen.Dixon@hcps.org)

[Alisa.Janiski@hcps.org](mailto:Alisa.Janiski@hcps.org)



# Cultural Arts Team (CATs)

Media, Music, Physical Education, and Art



Students will be finishing up with their digital citizenship units. We have been very impressed with how hard they have been working. We have been learning how to stay safe online and making sure that the digital tracks we leave behind are safe ones.

Pre-K is going to be learning about Puffins. We will be learning about what type of books can help us learn information. Students in grades K-5 will be learning how to use the different research tools that they have available to them. All the resources that we will be using will be found on their Canvas website using their Clever app.

# Physical Education

Mr. Schubert and Mr. Lamartina's Classrooms

## MARCH

### Unit: Integrated Movement

Pre-K and Kindergarten: We will be working on how to jump rope and be able to perform a simple dance! We will also be reviewing some of our previous lessons.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades: In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades we will also be jumping rope and performing a simple dance while being able to keep rhythm with music! We will also be reviewing some of our previous lessons.

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades: Students will be demonstrating the ability to do simple gymnastics and balance activities! We will also be reviewing some of our previous lessons.

*Reminder!! Please wear appropriate clothing for Physical Education, this includes closed-toed and backed shoes, with no heels (sneakers). Shoes should also be able to be tightened (Laces or straps). Be sure to wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to move in as well.*

# Art

## News from Mrs. Price's Art Classroom:



**Pre-Kindergarten** students will use pool noodles to print donut shapes and then practice their cutting skills while creating toppings for the donuts.

In March, **Kindergarten** students will finish up their self-portraits and create a caterpillar inspired by the book, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," by Eric Carle

**First Graders** will create water lily collages inspired by the artwork of Claude Monet.

**Second Grade** students will paint a color wheel and turn it into a colorful umbrella. If we get to it, we will learn about warm and cool colors and create a colorful chameleon. Otherwise, we will do this activity in April.

**Third Graders** will use a variety of materials and processes to create a mixed-media collage that includes a bowl of fruit.

This month, **Fourth Grade** students will learn about Sumi-e, the Japanese art of ink painting and create multiple artworks using ink and bamboo brushes.

**Fifth Grade students** will be working to create a lighthouse collage. Over the course of this project, students will review the art elements: line, shape, color, space, and texture.

## News from Ms. Benedetto's Art Classroom:



**Kindergarten** students will make self-portraits and use cutting skills to create a rainbow background.

**First Grade** students will use color mixing knowledge to paint primary and secondary color animals.

**Second Grade** students will finish their Mary Blair inspired castle collages as well as their warm and cool color chameleon paintings.

**Third Grade** students will learn about printmaking and rotating an image to create a symmetrical mandala design.

**Fifth Graders** will talk about balance and create a free-standing sculpture.



# Music Notes

## What's Coming Next?

In general music, our **Pre-K and K** students will be using exploring classroom instruments and learn how to classify these instruments by playing technique, material, and sound.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade** general music students will be reviewing their classroom instrument knowledge and expanding into a deeper level of classification and performance of these instruments.

Our **2<sup>nd</sup> grade** students will continue to apply their understanding of musical opposites to further their listening, composition, and performance skills.

Our **3<sup>rd</sup> grade** students have been earning their first "belts" for recorder. They have learned how to play notes B, A, G and are now adding E and D. They will begin bringing their recorders home. Please look for more info on how to clean and support them as they practice at home. Thank you!

**4<sup>th</sup> grade** students have been really improving their music reading skills during our boom whacker unit. They will finish this unit up this month by working in small groups to compose and perform their own melodies.

Our **5<sup>th</sup> graders** have completed their chord and melody compositions and learned how to build and read scales. Now they will take that knowledge to play their ukuleles. They will learn how to hold, play, and strum chords and play various songs.

## Band, Orchestra & Chorus

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade musicians are continuing to practice for the Spring Concert.

Hello everyone! As the 100th day of school comes and goes the Music Department is working towards the Spring. The Band and Orchestra students continue in their method books but also will start receiving music for the spring concert to be held on **June 7th at Aberdeen High School**. It is immensely important the students practice regularly at home on their instruments. This means 4-5 nights a week for 30 minutes each night. Without this homework being done the students will struggle to be successful, thank you in advance for the support.

We are also prepping for a performance opportunity on **April 26<sup>th</sup> at Havre de Grace Library**. Please look for a permission slip soon.

## RWES Music Staff

Mrs. Stephanie Harris – General/Vocal Music Teacher

[stephanie.harris@hcps.org](mailto:stephanie.harris@hcps.org)

Mrs. Morgan Calhoun – General/Vocal Music Teacher

[morgan.calhoun@hcps.org](mailto:morgan.calhoun@hcps.org)

Mr. Tony Domenico, Jr. – Instrumental/General/Vocal Music Teacher

[anthonyv.domenico@hcps.org](mailto:anthonyv.domenico@hcps.org)

## Math Puzzles

Number puzzles are a great way to not only work on computation, but also mathematical reasoning. Here are a few fun puzzles that you can work through with your child. Asking questions like: where is the best place to start? How could we solve this? How do you know if your answer is right? will help your child to develop reasoning skills and perseverance while also practicing essential math skills.

### Primary Grades Puzzle (Scroll down for answers)

$$\text{Fish Candy} + \text{Lime Candy} + \text{Fish Candy} = \text{Rainbow Candy}$$

$$26 - \text{Rainbow Candy} = \text{Watermelon Candy}$$

$$\text{Watermelon Candy} + \text{Watermelon Candy} = 2$$

$$\text{Fish Candy} + \text{Fish Candy} = \text{Watermelon Candy} + 9$$

$$\text{Rainbow Candy} - \text{Lime Candy} = ?$$

### Intermediate Grades Puzzle (Scroll down for answers)

$$\text{Switch Controller} \times \text{Pac-Man Game} = 121$$

$$12 \times \text{Switch Controller} = 132$$

$$\text{Gameboy} = 20 - \text{Pac-Man Game}$$

$$\text{X-Box Controller} - \text{Gameboy} = 7$$

$$\text{Switch Controller} \times \text{X-Box Controller} = ?$$

### Answers: Primary

Lime Candy = 1  
Fish Candy = 5  
Swirly Pop = 25  
Jelly Beans = 15  
? = 10

### Intermediate

Switch Controller = 11  
Pac-Man Game = 11  
Gameboy = 9  
X-Box Controller = 16  
? = 176

\*Source: <https://www.mashupmath.com/freemathpuzzles>

## The Literacy Corner

Spring is almost here! The weather is getting warmer. Trees and flowers are beginning to bloom. And our students are blossoming and growing as readers every day. You can continue to support reading growth at home using some of these fun and engaging outdoor activities!

### **Snap Words:**

By knowing how to automatically read and write snap words (also commonly called sight words) students can spend more time and mental energy reading and writing decodable words, words that can be sounded out using phonics knowledge. You can practice snap words outside with some of these fun activities.

- Chalk Rainbow Trace – Write the snap word in chalk, saying the word as you write it. Next, have your student trace the word three times in different colored chalk, saying the word each time they write it. End the activity by asking them to write the word from memory.
- Snap Word Egg Hunt – On a slip of paper, write a snap word your student is continuing to learn. Place that snap word in a plastic egg and hide it somewhere outside. Send your student on a hunt to find each egg and then practice reading and spelling each snap word they find. You may find it helpful to hide more than one egg with each snap word, that way your student is getting more than one chance to practice reading and writing that word.

### **Phonemic Awareness and Phonics:**

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds. Phonics is the ability to read letters and connect them to sounds to read words. There are many skills related to phonemic awareness and phonics, such as segmenting words (breaking them apart into individual sounds) and blending (putting sounds together to make a word). You can practice these skills this spring with some of these outdoor activities!

- Rhyming Nature Walk – Take a walk with the family and, on your walk, ask students to think of words that rhyme with what they see on their walk. For example, if they see a bird ask your student what rhymes with bird. Once back home, you can make a list of the words your student rhymed and practice spelling the words based on the sounds they hear and know.
- Bouncing Ball Sound Boxes – In this outdoor activity, your student can draw a sound box and bounce a ball for each of the sounds they hear in a word that you give them. For example, in the word hat, there are three sounds, /h/ /a/ /t/. The student would bounce the ball in the sound box and then write the letter(s) that match that sound. You can

switch this activity into a phonics activity by writing a word, and having your student bounce a ball for each sound they hear as they sound out the word. Don't forget to have them go back and read it fluently!

### **Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension involves many different skills and requires students to think about all elements of a story; characters, character feelings and traits, setting, problems and solutions, theme...the list could go on and on. To support reading comprehension at home, you can try some of these reading comprehension activities.

- Family Travel Audio Book – As you drive from home to practice and back again, consider listening to an audio book as a family. When you are close to your destination, ask your student some questions about what they heard. You can ask your students' teacher for some comprehension questions that you can use along your reading journey.
- Filming on Location: Act It Out – If time and budget allow, have your student act out a scene from a book that you are reading together in a similar setting to the one the characters are experiencing. For example, if you are reading a book and the characters are at a park, go together to a park and have your student recreate the story. Have them think about what the character might be feeling and ask them to take on the role of the character. You can even film it for them to watch later!

We hope that you and your student find these activities fun and enjoyable and we cannot wait to see your student blossom and grow as a reader!



# ROYE WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS- March 2023



Happy March!

Wow, spring is coming! With Spring upon us we will see more seasonal allergy symptoms showing up. To be sure it's just allergies and nothing more here is a link to a great chart from the Allergy and Asthma Network

<https://www.allergyasthmanetwork.org/coronavirus-what-you-need-know/>. Scroll down the homepage about halfway and you can click on the chart that shows you the difference between Allergy Symptoms vs COVID-19 vs The Flu.

We encourage you to check these websites daily to get the most up to date and information on the COVID-19:

- ♣ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/20>
- ♣ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- ♣ [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)

## **Spare Clothes**

RW Health Suite needs gently used clothing especially smaller sized 4-8. Leggings and sweatpants with elastic waist bands are great. Along with new boys under wear size 4-8.

We enjoy caring for your wonderful children every day!

Thank you!

Amy Piccalo BSN RN  
School Nurse

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS/PARTY INVITATIONS AT SCHOOL

Birthday Celebrations with food (cupcakes, cake, donuts, etc.) cannot be held at school. HCPS has a Wellness Policy which can be referenced online @ [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org).



We respectfully request that birthday/party invitations not be sent to school for either the child or teacher to distribute to other students. This disrupts the educational environment of our school, and we would appreciate your cooperation with this important policy.

### \*\*\*BUS LOOP REMINDER\*\*\*

Cars are not allowed in the bus loop from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m. daily. Please adhere to the posted signs and guidelines and use the upper parking lot during these times.

### **Student Pick-Up and/or Changes in Dismissal**

Parents are asked to write a note to your child's teacher if your child's dismissal procedure is going to change on any day. Teachers are instructed to send all students home using their normally dismissal mode, unless there is a note identifying an alternate transportation method. We respectfully ask you not to call the school to change your child dismissal procedures, as we need a note to make any dismissal changes. If you are changing your child from bus rider to car rider status for the day, we prefer a note. However, you may do this by phone, but we will **NOT** make any changes to dismissal procedures **after 3:00 pm and 12:00pm on early dismissal days.**

Additionally, to have a safe and orderly dismissal, we ask if you are picking up your student for an appointment on an early dismissal day, please pick up your student prior to 12:00 p.m. on the early dismissal days. Please keep in mind on early dismissal days students are considered absent for the entire day if they do not attend more than 2 hours of the ½ day. Additionally, on regular schedule days, if students are picked up early, they will be marked as "early dismissal" on these days. The Maryland Department of Education keeps track of student attendance including tardy and early dismissal. **Please help us to ensure students are present for the entire school day.**

We are

understanding  
inspiring  
persevering  
supportive  
respectful  
accepting  
creative  
caring  
positive  
reflective  
brave  
determined  
encouraging  
whole-child-focused  
dedicated  
scholars  
loving  
proud  
kind  
family  
amazing  
successful  
smart  
safe  
loyal  
resilient  
leaders