

# THE BULLDOG BUZZ

## Find out what's happening at John Humbird School

### From the desk of Mrs. Morgan

We have been very busy this fall. Our After School program is up and running. We will be submitting our school improvement plan this month. Thanks to the parents who provided feedback to our plan. We are lucky to have Mr. Gates, our community coordinator, plan activities that support our school and students. In addition, the grant has paid for field trip transportation, play tickets, and programs to come to our school. The community food give away has been a success each month. We were happy to hold a Veteran's Day program with students singing patriotic songs and enjoying light refreshments with students who had veterans in attendance. We are excited to plan our festive-themed incentive targeting attendance and positive behavior. Please make sure that we have updated phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses. We need to be able to reach you in order to receive important school updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office. Happy Holidays!!!

### Highlights from our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Cranford Hopes & Dreams Tools for Learning \* Tools for Life

The School Counseling Program at John Humbird Elementary School is proud to present the use of the Toolbox Project curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year. These Tools reside inside of us and help us to develop strong social and emotional skills and meaningful, satisfying relationships.

The 12 Tools of our inner TOOLBOX are:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Breathing Tool        | 7. Garbage Can Tool            |
| 2. Quiet/Safe Place Tool | 8. Taking Time Tool            |
| 3. Listening Tool        | 9. Please & Thank You Tool     |
| 4. Empathy Tool          | 10. Apology & Forgiveness Tool |
| 5. Personal Space Tool   | 11. Patience Tool              |
| 6. Using our Words Tool  | 12. Courage Tool               |

During the month of December, students in all grades will be "Uncovering" their hopes and dreams for themselves and classmates. Every student has somewhere within them, a hope and dream. Identifying these brings meaning to why the Toolbox Tools are important to them. Students will be encouraged to think about what kind of person they hope to become this school year as well as when they grow older. The School Counseling Program at John Humbird Elementary School invites you to ask your students about what their hopes and dreams are as well as sharing some of your own! By doing so, we are creating a happier and healthier school community together.



## December

### TITLE I Tip TITLE I PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Parent/family engagement is an important factor in the academic success of students. This plan describes how the Allegany County Public Schools will plan and support programs, activities and procedures for involving parents/families in all schools with a Title I program. The policy is also posted in our school website and is on the Allegany County Public Schools' website: [www.acpsmd.org](http://www.acpsmd.org)

### Important Dates to Remember

#### December - TENTATIVE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Schools Closed
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Book Fair
- 13<sup>th</sup> – G&G picture make-up day
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Spirit Week kick-off
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Spirit Attendance Week – see schedule
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Grade 1 program 1:30pm for parents
- 20<sup>th</sup> – 3-hour early dismissal – PBIS movie and PJ Day - Christmas break begins
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> - Schools Closed – Christmas vacation

#### January - TENTATIVE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Schools Open
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Jump rope for heart kickoff for students
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Marking period 2 ends
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Schools closed AM Principal PD / PM Teacher work time
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Schools and Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards published in ASPEN

Please look on the ACPS website for inclement weather updates. Also, please make sure we have updated phone numbers so you receives the phone calls the district sends out with information about school closures, delays, and early dismissals.

Keep up the good work, **Bulldogs** 😊

We are thrilled to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! This exciting event will take place from Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in the Library Media Center. The Scholastic Book Fair is a wonderful opportunity for your child to discover new books, develop a love for reading, and support our school. Your child will shop during their regularly scheduled Media Class. Remember, "The more you read, the better you read!" Mrs. Watson

## Grade Level News

**Pre – kindergarten 4** - What a wonderful fall season we had in PreK 4! We enjoyed the warm temperatures, examined the beautiful changes in nature, and gave thanks for our families and friends. The children had great fun disguising turkeys with their families. They were so proud to share and tell us about their special turkey! They also used their great eye-spy abilities to find them hiding throughout the classroom! We continued with our Frog Street ELA units, which were all about ways to stay safe healthy, helpful and happy! These units coincided nicely with our November, Thanksgiving and family themes, as well. We learned all about healthy foods in science, ways to share with families in social studies and represented numbers and counted quantities with favorite fall foods. As we move into December, we begin our fourth Frog Street theme, called Compare and Contrast. We will learn about living and non-living things, different kinds of stories, real and make-believe, and opposites. In Math, we will take our first benchmark. Our testing strategies are low-key and no-stress. The kiddos love to come to “play math games” with me and show me what they know! And of course, we can’t forget about the magical event at the end of the month. We will create lots of crafts and decorate for the holiday, read fun Christmas stories and poems, and count quantities of jingle bells and reindeer as we get closer and closer to SANTA!

**Kindergarten** - Kindergarten has been so busy this last month! We are just learning about Icky, our newest Superkid. We really enjoyed learning about Sal and Lily. We will begin to work in our Big Book of Blending and introduce some memory words this month. In math, we have been adding and subtracting within the number 5. We are now going to focus on numbers to 10. Our goal is to be able to count to 100 by the end of the school year! Also, keep working on those pathways on Wednesday evenings so we can keep climbing that i-ready mountain! In Social Studies, we were learning all about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. This month in Science, we will be talking about all things Weather! Happy Holidays!

**Grade 1** - In ELA, we are working on learning the spelling rules for adding past and present tense suffixes to base words. In Math, we will be learning the doubles and near doubles strategies for addition and subtraction after the Thanksgiving break. First Graders are also busy practicing our songs and speaking parts for our upcoming Christmas Program that will be on December 18 at 1:30! We can’t wait for our families to see our program!

**Grade 2** - Second grade is working hard and doing a great job!! In English/Language Arts, the students have been working hard learning with the Superkids! The boys and girls have written a poem about their favorite animal. In math class, the boys and girls are working on strategies for adding two-digit numbers and will soon be learning about money and time. In Social Studies, the students are now learning about maps and globes. Did you know that there are seven continents on our planet? Students will be bringing their devices home at least one time per week. Don’t forget to return the device and charger the following day. Please remember to check your child’s blue folder daily for assignments and have your child read daily. Thank you for sharing your child with us!

**Grade 3** - It’s December already and it’s going to fly! In math, we are working hard on multiplication properties and strategies and preparing for division lessons. In Reading, we are working through a unit on the human body, learning about the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. The writing focus for this unit is writing a paragraph with a strong topic sentence, supporting details and concluding sentence. In spelling we will continue to learn rules for making words plural. We are hoping each of you has a happy, healthy and restful holiday season!

**Grade 4** - December will be a fun filled month. We will be wrapping up our poetry unit in Reading. In Math, we will continue working on multiplication skills. Please continue to review facts at home. In Science, we will continue to work on Environmental Science. Since fourth grade attendance is super important, we are planning on special activities during the month of December for students that are in attendance. Please continue to check your child’s Wednesday and homework folders.

**Grade 5** - During the month of December we will begin our fourth unit in CKLA titled ‘Adventures of Don Quixote’. In this unit we will complete a novel study for ‘Adventures of Don Quixote,’ and work diligently on practicing and improving our grammar and language skills. In addition, we will plan, edit, draft, and publish our very own persuasive essays centered around our Don Quixote learning. In science, we will begin our mixtures and solutions unit and continue preparing ourselves for our MISA assessment in the spring. In math, we will be starting our fractions unit where we will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions with like and unlike denominators. As you are making holiday treats this season, talk with your 5th grader about which fractions you use while baking and cooking! We are very excited to jump into this holiday season and get rolling into some of these new units.

### Understanding your child’s behavior:

- Kids who whine often feel powerless and like they can’t cope; they often need just a chance to cry.
- Kids who disrespect you are showing you they don’t feel connected enough to you.
- Kids who are bossy or controlling are worried that they may not have their own needs met.
- Kids who don’t listen don’t feel like they are listened to.
- Kids who rebel often need a chance to feel that they are in control or powerful in their own life.
- Kids who compete with siblings usually need to feel more connected to their parent and feel more valued for their own uniqueness.

### Some Funny questions to ask your kids at dinner to get everyone laughing

1. If you could, would you have a dinosaur as a pet?
2. If you found a pot of gold, would you share it?
3. If you could have ice cream with every meal, would you? What flavor?
4. Can you touch your nose with your tongue?
5. Have you ever been caught sleepwalking?

**Kids love to be silly. Take some time to ask funny questions and to laugh with your child.**

**Jill Starr, LCSW-C**