

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. Parent activities have been scheduled and our After School program is up and running. We have submitted our school improvement plan. 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. His grant purchased water bottles and sweatshirts for the 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. 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 2023-2024 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:

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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

Important Dates to Remember

December - TENTATIVE

- 4th – 8th – Attendance incentive Christmas ornament paint – must have 8 days present in school to attend
- 11th – Character Trait program 2:00pm / Pictures with Santa
- 12th – Prek 4 staff to be recognized at BOE mtg for EXCELS rating
- 11th – 15th - Holiday Spirit Week – schedule sent home
- 14th - Community Food give away at church 1:30 – 4:00pm
- 18th – Grade 1 program 1:30pm for parents
- 21st – 3 hour early dismissal – PBIS movie and PJ day - Christmas break begins
- 22nd – January 1st - Schools Closed – Christmas vacation

January - TENTATIVE

- 2nd – Schools Open 3 hour delayed opening – Principal PD and teacher work time
- 8th – G&G group picture day, sibling and candid shots
- 11th – Marking period 2 ends
- 12th – 3 hour early dismissal - Teacher work time
- 15th - Schools and Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 26th – Report Cards published in ASPEN

Keep up the good work, Bulldogs 😊

Attendance News from Mrs. Moran

A note regarding attendance...

Across the country, more than 8 million students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk. Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing subjects and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.*

Many of your youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year - about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even in Pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance, and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year.*

In the John Humbird community, we are working to improve our attendance and decrease our absentee rate. Attendance directly impacts school performance. Please help us build a habit of good attendance that will carry our students into college and careers.

*Used with permission from attendanceworks.org.

Grade Level News

Pre – kindergarten 4 - I hope that all of our families had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! November flew by in a flash and we are excited to welcome all the holiday fun December will bring! In PreK 4 we will begin our 4th Frog Street Theme: Compare and Contrast. We will learn the difference between things that are living and nonliving. We will read a variety of stories that are new and old, real and make-believe. Some of our stories will have a connection to the number three, some that are familiar (The Three Little Pigs) and some that are new (The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark!). In our stories, we will learn about characters (who is in the story), setting (where the story takes place) and plot (what is the problem in the story). In Math, we will learn about shapes and make comparisons. We will continue to count each day and make connections to numeral and quantity. Laptops will continue to come home on Wednesdays for our Home Extension Activities. In cases of expected bad weather, laptops will come home for asynchronous learning. I will post an assignment on Schoology for you and your child to complete at home. When you return the assignment, your child will be counted present for the day. I look forward to joyful teaching and learning with your children in the upcoming weeks!

Kindergarten - Kindergarten has been so busy this last month! We are just learning about Lily, our newest Superkid. We really enjoyed learning about Doc and Sal. We will be starting to work in our Big Book of Blending and our memory words this month. In math, we mastered comparing within 10. We are now going to begin to sort and count objects. Keep practicing counting at home! Our goal is to be in the 100 club! 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! We will continue to send the red Raising a Reader bags home with new books each week. Please continue to bring them back to school on Fridays. Have a great Holiday!

Grade 1 - First graders have been working hard to prepare for the First Grade Christmas Program. Family and friends are invited to join us for this exciting event on Monday, December 18th at 1:30. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Grade 2 - Second grade is working hard and doing a great job! In English/Language Arts, the students have been working in Superkids Take on 2nd Grade and are almost ready to receive their new Superkids reader for the second semester. They have been learning how to write complete sentences and have even wrote a poem about a mystery creature. In math class, the boys and girls will continue to work on numbers to 100 and will be using many strategies to add and subtract word problems to 100. They will be starting a unit on money and will be identifying and counting coins. 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. The more you read, the better you read!

Grade 3 – Happy December! It is indeed a wonderful time of the year. For a special outing, third graders were happy to join second grade on a field trip to the Cumberland Theatre to see the play, *Rudolph*. The students did a great job and were a fantastic audience. In the classroom, third grade is working on the CKLA unit called, *The Human Body: Systems and Senses*. Please encourage your child to share with you all of the amazing information they are reading and writing about. In math, we are introducing the concept of division. Students are learning what it means to divide and how multiplication is related to division. As always, thank you for your continued support. We wish you a happy holiday season!

Grade 4 – December will be a fun filled month. We will be starting a new unit in Reading called Geology. 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. Please continue to check your child's Wednesday and homework folders. Fourth grade attendance is super important, we are planning on doing something special each day during the month of December for students that are in attendance.

Grade 5 - This month in 5th grade we will be continuing on with our decimal and fractions unit in math class. We will continue to practice and engage in decimal and fraction skills and conversions by completing lesson tasks and activities. In ELA we will be beginning the fourth unit in CKLA titled 'Adventures of Don Quixote'. In this unit we will complete a novel study of our Don Quixote reader. In science we will finish our mixtures and solutions unit and begin our earth and space science unit. We are very excited to jump into this holiday season and get rolling into some of these new units!

Media Center News from Mrs. Watson: There is a lot happening in the John Humbird Media Center! We just finished up with our annual Scholastic Book Fair. This is always a fun and exciting week for all. The students are super happy with our new Lego Wall and are making creative works of art in the Media Center. In addition, all students in grades K~5, will be participating in the Hour of Code for the month of December. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. Happy December to all, and to all a great month!

Afterschool update: The afterschool program is currently full, but we are still able to add students to the waiting list.

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
