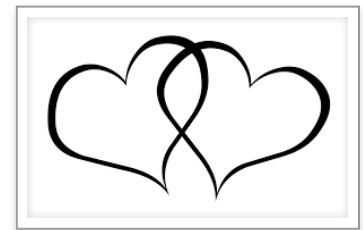


OPR PENGUIN POST

FAMILY EDITION

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL WOODEN



Happy Love Month & African American History Month Families! Throughout this month, we are provided with the opportunity to show LOVE to family and friends. As a school, we want to show all of you some LOVE for supporting our school each and every day. We LOVE your ongoing support to the Penguin Palace. We LOVE having all of you as part of our Penguin family. We LOVE your encouraging words and your positive feedback that many of you provide to our staff and scholars daily. We LOVE ideas that you share with us to make our school better to learn and work. We LOVE our partnership with families and community partners. Most importantly, we LOVE that we get to work with the best scholars in the nation. We LOVE our little penguins and proud of them!

Throughout the month of February, we will celebrate the contributions of African Americans as we do throughout the entire school year. Be sure to ask your child what they learned about African American History throughout the month. During morning announcements, we will sing the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" written by James Weldon Johnson in February 1900. This is something that we started last year. The scholars loved it. It was a hit at the Spring concert. It is a song that speaks to the struggles and triumphant of African Americans past, present, and future.

In closing, I want to share with you the lyrics of the first stanza to this great anthem.

- Lift every voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us, Facing the rising sun of our new day begun Let us march on till victory is won.

Together, let's make February one that is filled with LOVE and unity.

Because we love being Penguins,

Principal Wooden

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday, February 3:** Class Picture Day
- **Friday, February 10:** Quarter 2 Report Cards Distributed
- **Thursday, February 16:** 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students and Home Access Center (HAC) Update
- **Friday, February 17:** Schools Closed for Students/Professional Development for Staff
- **Monday, February 20:** Schools and Offices Closed




ATTENTION PARENTS AND FAMILIES

We need your support! Join us virtually to provide input on our School Performance and Achievement (SPA) plan. The meeting will take place via Teams on Monday, February 13 at 7:00pm. Look for the announcement in your child's Wednesday folder and check our school's Facebook page for a QR code to scan to join our meeting virtually!

WATCH THIS SUPPORT VIDEO TO LEARN HOW TO SET UP YOUR HOME ACCESS CENTER ACCOUNT TO ACCESS YOUR CHILD'S REPORT CARD FOR QUARTER 2.

Home Access Center & Report Cards



WHAT IS HAC?

- Grades K-12 can access report cards using HAC
- Grades K-12 can check their child's attendance records using HAC
- Grades 3-12 can monitor their child's grades and work completion using HAC

SWAN CREEK INFORMATION:

Want to learn more about Swan Creek and all the resources available to students through this unique opportunity for online school? Check out the links below to hear more information and listen to parent and student testimonials. Applications open January 10, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year!

Swan Creek School - Harford County Public Schools' Alternative Learning Option



GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

PRE-K

Pre-K is so excited about our upcoming Dinosaur unit. We will explore dinosaurs and will be having a dinosaur museum at the end of the month. More information about the museum will be coming soon from your child's teacher. In reading we will identify the following letters: P, B and R. In math we explore the number 6, rote count to 15, and identify and construct 2D and 3D shapes.



KINDERGARTEN



1ST GRADE

February brings new opportunities to grow and learn in First Grade! We are proud to be hosting our Learn With Me event on February 15th from 2:00 - 2:45! In reading and writing, we will be continuing our focus on non-fiction text. As readers, we notice that non-fictional text looks

different and sounds different than fictional text. As writers, we use all of our prior knowledge about a topic that we're an expert about and we write to teach what we know to the world! In math, we will be beginning Topic 7 and expanding our understanding of counting sequences. Consider practicing skip counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s at home or in the car! We will also begin Topic 8 (Understanding Place Value through 100) in February! In Social Studies, we will conclude our unit titled "My Place in the World". Ask our child to identify the 7 continents and 5 oceans by singing our Continents and Oceans song! We look forward to continuing to grow and learn as March approaches!



2ND GRADE

- Save the Date: April 20th at 2:00 for Learn with Me for Poetry
- Keep an eye out for field trip information (coming soon!)
- Please make sure you continue to check and initial agenda/planners EVERY evening!



3RD GRADE

We have been working hard diving back into learning after our mid-year Bootcamp, as we begin 3rd quarter!

- Please make sure your child has weather appropriate outside attire for recess.
- Please feel free to send in a sweatshirt or sweater for your child, as winter coats are not allowed to be worn during our instructional day.
- As we prepare our scholars for 4th grade, we will be holding them to higher expectations regarding independence.
- Look for more information coming in the next few weeks regarding our "Learn With Me" day scheduled for 3/7/23 from 12:50-1:50.



4TH GRADE

Happy February!! Students will participate in book club discussions as they tackle Historical Fiction texts. In math we will continue to multiply and divide. Continued practice of facts utilizing the games made at our Learn with Me day will be very beneficial as we continue to solve multiplication problems with one and two digit factors and division problems with large



dividends and a single digit divisor. (long division). In Social Studies we will complete our study of Colonial Times and move into the American Revolution.

Be on the lookout for information about an upcoming spring field trip!!

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Love to all of our scholars,

Fourth Grade Teachers ♥

5TH GRADE

- Planetarium field trips are starting this month: *Russell and Mascari's class will attend on 1/23 and 2/10. Renwick and Middleton will attend on 1/20 and 2/6*
- Please ensure that water bottles are filled with water only and the bottle has a sealing lid.
- Remind students that it is important to follow all school expectations.
- Continue checking and signing your students agenda each night.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Welcome wishes go out to Ms. Spinella, our new special education teacher in First Grade! We are excited to have you working with our scholars!

The second quarter ends on January 27, 2023. Parents and guardians can expect to receive IEP progress reports, sent to your email address on file, on or before 2/10/2023 when grades are posted in HAC.

The Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC) operates a partnership between parents and families, community leaders and organizations, educators and HCPS leadership in support of the needs of children with disabilities.

February 2, 2023 How to Prepare for the annual IEP Meeting - Teacher Perspective (Virtual)

- Email Melissa.osgood@hcps.org if you are interested in signing up!

SPECIAL AREAS- PRIMARY

- **Music:** Students will be focusing African American Musicians and Jazz Music.

- **Art:** Students will be focusing on Valentine themes and celebrating artists for Black History month.
- **Media:** Students will be focusing on African American authors and recording facts for our research unit.
- **P.E.:** Students will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart.



SPECIAL AREAS- INTERMEDIATE

Welcome to February! The Special Areas in the Intermediate Building are full of exploring concepts within each subject. During February we will be doing the following:


- **Art**-Foreground/Middle ground/Background
- **Media**-Digital Citizenship
- **Music**-Melody
- **PE**-Jump Rope for Heart.



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