

# OPR Penguin Post Family Edition

MARCH NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL WOODEN

Greetings families! Welcome to March Madness! There is an old saying, March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. We are looking forward to the lamb side of this saying. Many of us can use a little consistent spring weather. It has been a crazy winter. We have been confused a lot with the seasons lately. As we move into spring, please take time to review our schoolwide expectations with your child(ren). We want to ensure that we all have a great spring. There is so much more learning that needs to take place as we move into the final quarter of our school year. When scholars follow the expectations that are put forth by our school, they grow more and more academically. Families with children in grades 3, 4, and 5, we are entering testing season. PLEASE be sure that your child(ren) is in school. We need them here. Not only for testing purposes, but for academic purposes. Please take a look at the picture below. It shows a visual of the impact absences have on student learning. As we enter March Madness, please make it a goal that your child comes to school every day. Thanks for all of your support to make our school AMAZING! We continue each day to represent that Penguin Pride! Happy March!



Principal Wooden

Attendance during one school year	Equates to dates absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	60 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	120 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	180 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	240 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	300 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	345 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	405 Lessons

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tuesday, March 7:** 5th Grade MISA Testing
- **Thursday, March 9:** 5th Grade MISA Testing
- **Friday, March 10:** 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
- **Wednesday, March 15:** APGFCU Financial Parent Workshop (5:30-7:00 pm)
- **Thursday, March 30:** Internet Safety Parent Workshop (6:00-7:00 pm)
- **Friday, March 31:** 3rd Quarter Ends, 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students



## GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

### PRE-K

Pre-K had so much fun learning all about dinosaurs these past few weeks. In March will begin our Hoedown Unit. This unit enables children to explore farm life, music, and musical expression through a farm setting. Through listening and participating in many different types of musical activities, children will learn that people can express their ideas, feelings, and experiences through music. In reading we will explore the following letters P, B, R and K. In math, we explore the number 7 and 8, rote count to 20, and identify and construct patterns.



### KINDERGARTEN

We are looking forward to a month full of good luck!

- Phonics: Vowel Power: Scholars will explore the five vowels and learn to read and write lots of new SNAP words!
- Reading: Boosting Reading Power: Scholars will continue to strengthen their reading superpowers from the previous unit and gain two new powers; picture power and vowel power!
- Writing: How-To Unit: Scholars will write step-by-step how to do something!
- Mathematics: Topic 9: Count numbers to 20: Mathematicians will count, read, and write numbers 11 to 20.
- TUB: Wellness: Scholars will explore what it means to be healthy!



Please continue to read any book with your child for 20 minutes each and every night!

## 1ST GRADE

First graders are heading into March with excitement for learning! This month, we are beginning our new reading unit, where we will focus on monitoring our reading to make sure that what we read makes sense. We will continue to work in our small groups to develop decoding, fluency and comprehension skills. As a writer, March brings opportunities to express our opinions about things as we write reviews! In math, we are continuing to build our place value concepts with tens and ones. First grade teachers would like to provide all parents of the following important reminders:

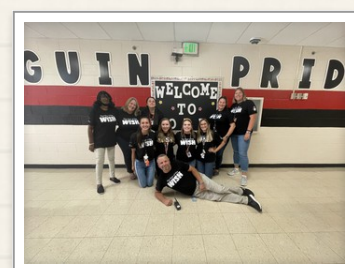


- Our designated breakfast time is from 8:30 - 9:00 every morning. Please make every effort to have your child in school before 9:00 or be sure to provide breakfast at home if arriving after 9:00.
- Sneakers are required for participation in gym and to play on the equipment on the playground at recess.
- Your child's teacher has (or soon will) sent a list of "snap words" that your child should be working to master at home. Repetition is key for mastering these words and we need your support at home! Students should be able to recognize and read these "snap words" within 3 seconds. If you need a pack of index cards from school to make a set of flashcards for home, please let your child's teacher know!
- Wednesday folders and Penguin folders should be emptied regularly. Math assessments should be signed and returned to the teacher.

## 2ND GRADE

Second grade's Learn With Me will be April 20 at 2 pm. More information will be provided closer to the event.

Be on the lookout for permission slip coming home on April 11th and directions for paying online for our field trip to the Zoo on Tuesday, May 9th.



Make up work will be sent home after each absence beginning March 1. Please look for it when your scholar returns from being absent. Complete and return it to your scholar's classroom teacher in the numbers of days that your scholar has been out (if out 1 day, the work should be completed in 1 day, if out for 2, please return the work in 2 days).

Please continue to make sure your scholar is reading EVERY night for 20 minutes as part of homework. This is a crucial part to your scholar's success in second grade this year. You can use this chart to help your scholar at home.

As the weather gets warmer, please make sure your scholar is wearing or bringing sneakers for recess.

## 3RD GRADE

- We are looking forward to our "Learn With Me" day on Tuesday, 3/7 from 12:50-1:50. If you have not returned the signed registration form, please send it in ASAP!
- We are excited to welcome up to two adult guests per student. Please note, as stated on the registration form, siblings are not able to attend. Thank you for understanding.
- We are running low on tissues. If you can donate a box or two to your child's homeroom, it would be greatly appreciated.



Thank you for your support!!

## 4TH GRADE

Fourth Grade will be taking a field trip on April 13, 2023 to Steppingstone Museum in Havre de Grace. The purpose of our trip is to support our learning of Colonial Times. Each fourth grade class will hold a lottery to choose two parent chaperones to assist each class. The cost of the field trip is \$13.00 for students and chaperones. Be sure to check your scholar's Wednesday folder for a permission slip and additional information.



During the month of March we will finish up our Historical Fiction unit in reading and will begin our nonfiction unit *Reading History The American Revolution*. In math we will continue working with fractions.

Encourage you scholar to continue reading each night for 20+ minutes. Utilize the math games given out at our Fourth Grade Learn with Me day to practice facts. Ask you scholar to sing the multiples songs. Continued practice will help with instant recall of facts that is needed for much of our math work.

Happy March!

Fourth Grade Teachers

## 5TH GRADE

- Fifth grade teachers want to thank each of you for helping your child sell the chocolate bars for our fundraiser. We are excited to see how much we were able to raise for our end of the year ceremony and celebration. We truly appreciate all of your support.
- The family life unit for 5th grade will be held from February 27th-March 3rd.
- MISA testing will be held on Tuesday 3/7 and Thursday 3/9 for fifth grade.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

March is a very busy time in the IEP world! Please continue to check your email for invitations to IEP meetings, as well as other important information that may be sent home. For all SE students who are eligible to receive ESY services, those IEP meetings will be held by March 31st.

See information below for the next SECAC meeting, as well as a FREE autism workshop hosted by Partners for Success! The events are occurring on March 2 and March 28.

## Harford County SECAC Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2023

\*6:30 - 6:50pm Meet/Greet (network)\*

\*6:50 - 7:00pm SECAC Welcome/Share\*

\*7:00 - 8:00pm Presentation\*

\*8:00 - 8:30pm Q & A \*



## How to Prepare for the Annual IEP Meeting

Parent Presenters:  
Lauren Stouten  
Kathleen Khoury

### Parent Perspective

Join Us Virtually!



### Understand the process Parents go through to prepare for the Annual IEP Meeting.

Review IEP draft.

Compare IEP draft to current draft.

Review Quarterly Progress Notes.

Review the goals.

What additional accommodations or services are needed.

What's working. What's not.

Make sure Parental Input was submitted for draft IEP.



Connect with SECAC ...

Email: [harfordcountyseccac@gmail.com](mailto:harfordcountyseccac@gmail.com)


Facebook: -----> Scan me

Website: <http://www.hcps.org/boe/cac.aspx>

Call: HCPS Special Ed Dept at 410-588-5246



Scan me




**Family Support Services**  
For Families of Children With Disabilities

**MARCH 28TH**  
**AUTISM**  
**WORKSHOP**

Join parents, educators, and community partners for this **FREE** event!

**6:00 - 7:00pm** Visit **community partner** tables and enjoy refreshments.  
**7:00 - 7:45pm** HCPS special education staff will present on effective **behavior management strategies**.  
**7:45 - 8:15pm** Staff members including **BCBAs** and **school psychologists** will be on-hand to answer your specific questions!



Plus many more! Thank you, community partners!

**FREE Community Resources!**

Connect with HCPS Special Education staff!

Connect with local ABA providers and DDA support!

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**

**HARFORD ACADEMY**  
100 Thomas Run Rd.  
Bel Air, MD 21015

Tuesday March 28th  
6:00 – 8:15PM  
Questions? Contact  
Rachel Trovato,  
partners.success@hcps.org

## SPECIAL AREAS- PRIMARY

Music: Students will celebrating music in our schools month.

P.E.: Heart course and Golf!

Art: Students are working on all things color and exploring new materials,

Media: Students are working on questioning as we work through the research process



## SPECIAL AREAS- INTERMEDIATE

We are marching into March in the Intermediate Special Areas. During March we will be actively learning the following: **Art**-Female Artists, **Media**-3rd and 4th grade will spruce up their note-taking skills as they prepare for success during the research unit. 5th grade will learn how to use the Book Creator app. and practice skills learned as they publish books detailing their passions, **Music**-3rd grade: Time Signatures and Conducting and beginning recorders, 4th



grade: Pentatonic Melodies, 5th grade: Solfege with fa, and Phys. Ed.--Basketball and Striking Skills.



## OLD POST ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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