

The Eagle Speaks

Hurlock Elementary School

A message from your principal...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Can you believe it is March? Where does the school year go when we are working hard and having some fun? March is a busy month at HES. Next week we have our Maryland School Assessment in reading for grades 3, 4 and 5; the week after we have testing for math.

It is my philosophy that these testing days are just another school day, easier in fact than a non-testing day because I expect teachers and students to work hard everyday! If your child has worked hard and come to school prepared to learn with a positive attitude everyday, he or she will do just fine!

There are several events for families this month. This Thursday is our "Facts and Flicks" night sponsored by the Parent Advisory Council. Join us for a menu of interesting topics and dinner. HES children will enjoy pizza and a movie while their parents attend sessions to learn more about academic programs, supporting their children at school and more! Later in the month we will have our spring carnival, a fun night for everyone.

Hope to see you at both of these events!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Feat

March Dates to Remember

- 4 - PAC "Facts & Flicks" Night
- 11, 12 - MSA Testing for Reading
Grades 3,4,& 5
- 18, 19 - MSA Testing for Math
Grades 3,4,& 5
- 25 - School Pictures

Coming up in April!

- 2,5 - Spring Break
- 8 - PreK, K registration
- 12 - Fine Arts Night
- 30 - Jumprope for Heart



Our School Rules

- Stay in your assigned area.
- Talk in a friendly voice.
- Always follow directions.
- Respect the property and business of others.
- Safety: Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

PreKindergarten and Kindergarten Registration is coming up! See page 2 for details!

Counselor's Corner

A big thank you goes out to the Hurlock Community for a very successful Girls' Night Out! We had over 110 ladies come out that night despite the fact that all the days surrounding the event were snow days. Girls and caregivers had a great time bonding and I am looking forward to doing it again next year!

Another success for our community was our Help For Haiti Penny Campaign. Together, we raised well over \$800 and we are still counting! Mrs. Eberspacher's class raised the most with over \$120 and will be celebrating with a pizza party in the near future.

In the counselor's office we are still working hard in our K and 1st grade small groups and expect to see a new group for the older grades coming soon!

Just a reminder to keep sending in those Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education! Each one you send in puts money or equipment into your child's classroom!

If you have any concerns about your child and would like me to see if I can help out, please feel free to contact me at 410-943-3303 or mckeownd@dcpsmd.org. Or, just stop in to see me!

Important Attendance Reminder

Please remember to send in a note if your child is absent due to illness within 5 days of the absence. All days that a student is absent and a note is not turned in will result in that absent being marked as unexcused. If you have questions about the attendance policy, please consult the attendance policy section in the school calendar or see Miss McKeown.

PreK and K Registration

When: Thursday, April 8th

Time: 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Where: Hurlock Elementary School

PreK: Child must be 4 by Sept. 1, 2010

K: Child must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2010

The following information is required for registration: birth certificate; immunization record; proof of residence; proof of lead testing; custody papers (if any); social security card (if they have one), current address and phone numbers.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact the school at 410-943-3303.

The Board of Education of Dorchester County STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Board of Education of Dorchester County does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, age, sex, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation or other basis prohibited by law.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. The information in this announcement is available in alternative formats upon request.

Concerns regarding the above are directed to Gary McCabe, Sr., Assistant Superintendent for Administration, Dorchester County Public Schools, 700 Glasgow Street, Cambridge, Maryland, 21613, or by phone at 410-228-4747, extension 1015.

PTO NEWS

The PTO is actively involved raising funds and planning activities for spring and the end of the year. A "Corbi's" Pizza sale will take place this month, so please watch for the information in your child's backpack! This is a joint effort from the PTO and the HES discipline committee. The discipline committee will use its share of the profit for our end of year Gold Card trip.

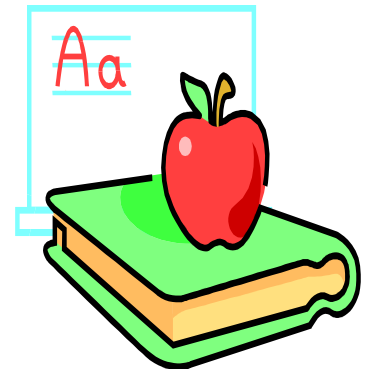
Volunteers are needed to help at our "Spring Fling". This fun, activity filled event will take place soon. Please contact a PTO officer to see how you can help. We expect the night to be even bigger than last year's event!

News from the Classroom

Magnificent Marvelous Pre-K

The Pre-K children have finished the Construction Zone and have started a theme called **In the City, In the Country**. In this theme we will meet 3 new alphafriends, Callie Cat, Queenie Queen, and Vinnie Volcano. Please work with your child nightly on the new letters, and any other letters that they haven't learned. During class, when I need to write a word, I ask the children the beginning sound. Then I let one child write that letter for me. Yesterday, the children helped me spell "cat". They love helping me!

In math, we have begun to combine sets (addition) and separate sets (subtraction). We will spend some time learning to identify penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. The third week of the theme will have us compare weight, using the terms heavier and lighter.



News from Kindergarten

Kindergarten Parent Tips:

Reading – Before reading a book to your child discuss the title, cover and pictures in the story. Then ask your child to predict what the story will be about. During the reading of a story ask your child what will happen next? After reading a story ask your child if there was a problem in the story and how it was solved. Your child should be able to tell you the characters in the story and setting. Always discuss what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story. (What happened first, next and last?) We also distinguish between what is real and make-believe.

Math-Students will begin a Money Unit in the next few days. Students will need to practice the recognition and value of coins. (Penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar and dollar)

Continue to review the numbers 1-20 with your child. Using cereal or pennies to make sets and match the numeral to the set is a great practice. A memory game for matching numerals and sets is also a great way to review the numerals.

First Grade News

Spring Fever is HERE!!!! In reading we are currently in Theme 6, "Animal Adventures" and we will be beginning Theme 7. Students will be working on the following comprehension strategies: categorize and classify, making generalizations, summarizing, Topic/Main Idea, compare and contrast, evaluating, and drawing conclusions.

In math, your child will continue learning strategies for addition and subtraction, including doubles and doubles plus 1. Have your child practice math facts every night (addition and subtraction).

In Social Studies we will be continuing our "World of Work" unit, and then beginning Science. This will be the "Observing an Aquarium" unit where we will be housing real living creatures in the classroom.

The tentative plan for this year's Easter Egg Hunt will be March 26, 2010, promptly at 3pm, (donations; including plastic eggs, and individually wrapped candy would be appreciated). On Friday, May 28, 2010 we will be going on our trip to Assateague Island in Berlin Maryland. Mid-April, we will be sending home information about this trip. Please keep an eye out for this information!

Here are a few interactive Reading Websites that reinforce what your children are learning. ENJOY!!!!

www.adrianbruce.com/reading/games.htm

Gamequarium.com/phonics28.html

www.starfall.com

Second To NONE

Congratulations to those students who have earned their Reading Medall! Please be sure your child is reading nightly and recording his or her pages read on the reading log. Second Grade's goal is for every student to have earned his or her reading medal by year's end!

In Reading we will start learning about families in our theme "Family Time". You may send in family photos to share during this theme.

For Math our current unit is Time & Temperature. The students will be learning how to read time on analog and digital clocks and reading temperature on a thermometer. Continue practicing basic addition and subtraction math flash cards at home.

We are working very hard learning to answer questions in MSA format in both math and reading. This is a lot of challenging work, but students are really improving and have attacked this new challenge with a great attitude. Thank you, students, for all your hard work!



Third Grade News

In reading, we are reading Theme 4, "Animal Habitats."

In math, we are working on division. Please help your child practice their math facts and look over their math homework every night. Please help them if they are having trouble.

We have been working hard to prepare for MSA. The test will be the second and third weeks in March. During the days of MSA, please make sure your child goes to bed on time and gets to school on time.

In a few weeks we will begin a science unit on Forces and Motion. It is a fun hands on science unit the students will enjoy.

We are planning a field trip to the Science Center in Baltimore. More information will be coming home soon.



News from the health room...

No mosquitoes yet, but the "bugs" are really going around, the germ kind that is! And as always, the easiest way to prevent the spread of infections and illness is cleaning the hands.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now recommending the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, as a preferred method for cleaning hands. Use one good squirt and rub the hands thoroughly (around wrists and between fingers), until the gel feels dry. Of course, if the hands are visibly dirty, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water. The CDC is recommending the alcohol-based hand sanitizers because they kill more germs and are less irritating to the skin. And, most folks really do not wash their hands long enough, well enough, or often enough.

HINT: Teachers always appreciate the donation of alcohol-based hand sanitizers and tissues, for their students.

Now the other "bugs", HEADLICE. Please continue to make screening for head lice part of the normal hygiene practice in your home. Every county in the state, and probably the COUNTRY, has at least a few cases of head lice every school year, and Dorchester is no exception. If you have questions or concerns about head lice, please contact the nurse at your child's school, or the school health supervisor (410-901-8167).

Finally, please remind your children to COVER COUGHS and SNEEZES (bend of elbow works when no tissue is handy). Frequent HAND CLEANING is critical in preventing illness. And please keep ill children home, calling the doctor as needed.



Fourth Grade News

We have been working hard to prepare for the statewide MSA test and make up for the time that was lost due to inclement weather. The children will be tested in the areas of reading and math during the second and third week of the month. We have been using our social studies time in the afternoon to teach additional math or reading lessons because it is so important that the students be exposed to all of the different concepts that they will be tested on prior to the test. We will also continue to review topics that were taught earlier in the year and may have proven to be difficult or that students simply need to be reminded of. This is a very important test and it is vital that the children are here so we can help them prepare and be comfortable during testing. Just a reminder, students should have spelling and math homework each night (with the exception of Friday). Math homework may sometimes be a review of what was taught that day or a mixed review of skills previously taught in the year. Also please make sure your child is recording what they read each night and getting their behavior slip signed.

A Look Ahead

Reading: We are finishing up our third theme in which we have been talking about fantasy and realism. We will begin our fourth theme called Problem Solvers. We will be reading stories in which there is a problem and spend time talking about the steps that the characters take to solve the problem.

Math: We are finishing up our unit on decimals. We will be practicing how to add and subtract decimals as well as estimating sums and differences. We have also been working on money. Students should be able to count mixed sets of money, compare sets of money to determine which set is greater, and determine change using subtraction. We will also be reviewing probability, multiplication, division, and the statistic unit that was taught earlier in the year.

Science: We will soon begin our third unit on the water cycle. We will experiment with evaporation and condensation. Students usually enjoy the hands-on experiences while we are learning about the water cycle.

Social Studies: We will continue to explore Maryland history. Our focus this term is around the Civil War time period.

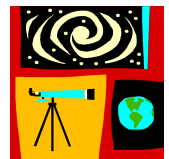
Fifth Grade News You Can Use

This month is the most critical month for your fifth grade student. The upcoming MSA tests in math and reading will be taking place on March 11th and 12th for reading, and March 18th and 19th for math. During the next few weeks please make sure that your child is getting plenty of rest each night and is eating a good meal for breakfast whether here at school or at home. It is very important that your child is both mentally and physically capable of making it through the demanding test days.

Currently in reading we are working on Theme 4. This theme is called, "Person to Person" and deals with people helping each other and also how people complicate the lives of others. The story we just finished called, "Mariah Keeps Cool" showed how a sister wants to throw a surprise birthday party for her big sister and collect goods and clothing for the charity that her sister is associated with. It shows how to be kind to one another.

In math we are cramming in for the upcoming MSA. We are trying to squeeze as much material in so that your student is prepared. We have covered everything from transformations to conversions. Your student should know their basic geometry skills as well as be able to tell you how many pints are in a gallon.

As a reminder if you have not already brought in your money for the school field trip to Philadelphia please do so. The month of May will be here before we know it and you do not want to miss your chance to go on this great adventure. Chaperone space is limited, so if you want to be a chaperone get your money in as soon as possible. As a side note, Mrs. Gaul has found another great field trip that we will be able to go on in May. This trip will be to Assateague Island, and as it looks now, it will be of no cost to students. This was a great trip that we went on two years ago. The students really enjoyed learning about our Ocean and its bays and tributaries.



News from the Art room

First, I'd like to thank all of you for sending in donations of boxes, cans and other needed items over the last several weeks. We seem to have enough now to finish our robot project, thanks to your help. I hope you will all come out to Fine Arts Night in April to see the fabulous results! Stay tuned for more information.

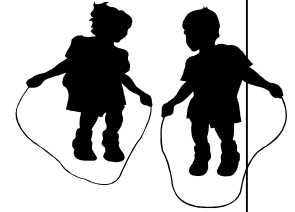
Third graders will be going to the Academy Art Museum in Easton the week of March 22. This will be a morning trip. Students will leave school at 9, and be back in time for lunch. This will be our 3rd year participating in this program, and it has always been enjoyable for both students and staff. There will be a tour of the museum's current exhibit, followed by time in the studio to make an art project that students can take home. Best of all, there is no charge for this enjoyable outing! There will be more news shortly regarding the day your child's class will go. Permission slips will be going home soon with the exact date.

As time flies by, I'd like to pass on a "heads-up" regarding our tee shirt tie-dye project. It's not too early to begin setting aside shirts for your children. They will need plain white short sleeved tee shirts to tie dye. I am aiming for late April or early May for this project, and will send home more information as it gets closer. For those of you who may be new to HES, each grade has a different color, so your child will get a different color shirt each year. They will be tied with rubber bands and soaked in dye, creating beautiful, unique patterns. Classes wear them for Activity Day, and possibly for field trips. This is a great opportunity to recycle a shirt that might have a spot or stain or other imperfection. When they are dyed, they will look as good as new!

Thank you again for your contributions.

News from the Gym...

"Jump Rope for the Heart is coming soon! In the near future your child will bring home information on how to participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for the Heart on April 30th. I'm thrilled that our school is participating in a very special community service program. By participating in Jump Rope for the Heart, your child will join millions of other children across the country in a meaningful opportunity to learn and help others. They will learn how their hearts work and how to take care of them through physical activity and nutrition. In short, your child will have fun and feel good by helping others.



Help your child get involved! First sign and return the permission slip coming in upcoming weeks. Then help them with learning and with their fund raising! You can help by asking friends and family to give in support of your child's efforts. Your child can set up a web page and you can email friends/family to make secure donations. Visit americanheart.org/jump to get started. We are really excited about this year's Jump Rope for Heart event and the experience it offers our students.

News from the Music Room...

Band - After school band has begun on Mondays and Fridays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the music room. Students will need to have a permission slip filled out for each practice. Mrs. Cooper has provided the permission slips for the band students. There are extra copies in the music room. Students do not have to participate in the after school rehearsals. Those band friends who can attend will receive 50,000 points for each practice. Parents should pick up their children in the music room. It is critical to inspire your children to practice at least 4 times a week 20 minutes or more. Just like sports playing an instrument takes practice. A baseball player would not go to a game having never practiced with his or her team members. We have two major concerts coming up in April. **Monday, April 12th that is our Fine Arts Night here at school and Wednesday, April 21st our All-County Band Concert at Cambridge South Dorchester High School.** Let's inspire our students to reach their goal, bat in the home run, make the touch down and score some super sounding band music! GO TEAM!

Fine Arts Night on Monday, April 12th. This concert will feature 3rd, 4th and 5th grade singers and 3rd graders on their flutophones. The singers will need a plain colored shirt for this concert. We will be going for an island theme. Any color shirt is fine as long as it is not brown, black, grey or white. The singing group will wear any kind of blue jeans for the bottom of their outfit. **The band will also perform** and the band awards will be given out during this concert. The trophies for the most outstanding 1st year player and the most outstanding 2nd year player are very much still up for grabs. Anyone could win at this point. If your child has not been practicing they could start now and still win. I am looking for a student who has practiced consistently 4 times a week, shown steady improvement on their playing ability, they come to band class and bring their materials to their band lesson each week. Thank you for your support and cooperation with our musical activities here at Hurlock Elementary School.

Mathematics corner

Number concepts are used in all areas of mathematics. Number sense is having a good understanding of numbers and how they connect within mathematics. It is a way of thinking with numbers that provides us with a mental map and the flexibility to work with and compute numbers. Number sense is needed for success in all aspects of mathematics. Good number sense enables students to understand numbers and relationships among numbers, decompose numbers, and use appropriate strategies when computing with numbers.

Students who have number sense understand what individual numbers mean and generally know when a number makes sense. Students need the opportunity in school as well as outside of school to develop insights about numbers so that they recognize numbers and are confident with numbers in a variety of contexts. An example of this would be the ability to explain what he/she knows about a fraction such as $\frac{3}{4}$. A child may be able to tell you that the 4 represents the number of equal parts something is broken into and the 3 represents the number of parts used. They may also be able to relate it to decimals and say it is 0.75 and that it is greater than $\frac{1}{2}$.

Students who have good number sense can think of numbers as being composed of numbers of lesser value. They are able to break numbers apart in various ways. Students can be encouraged to decompose, or break numbers apart, and think about them in multiple ways. There are many games to play to work on breaking numbers apart. One game is Jeopardy. This is where you give the answer (which is the number) and a partner makes up questions that give you that number. This is a great game because the more knowledge a person has, the more creative they can be in developing a question for that number.

Here is an example:

The answer is 36, what is the question?...

The question is what number has 3 tens and 6 ones?

The question is what number has 2 tens and 19 ones?

The question is what number is the sum of $25 + 11$?

The question is what number is the product of 4×9 ?

Number sense includes the ability to see relationships between and among numbers. Children who have number sense have a grasp of the size or magnitude of numbers in relation to other numbers. An example of this would be if a child recognized that 98 is close to 100 and that 98 cents is almost one dollar.

Students use what they know about numbers to perform operations. They have a natural inclination to do computation that makes sense to them in everyday situations. Mental computation and estimation are powerful ways to help students develop number sense. Teachers as well as parents must provide opportunities for students to recognize when pencil and paper or calculators are a more appropriate strategy.

Having number sense also includes the ability to recognize if an answer is logical or reasonable. Teachers as well as parents need to question children by asking them if their answer is reasonable. One example of this would be to question a child who when asked to calculate the mean (average) for a set of numbers only gives the sum (total). You could talk to the child about why the answer they put is unreasonable – the mean must be between the lowest and the highest numbers in the set. The total would be much larger than the mean. Then the child may realize they forgot to divide the sum by the number of addends to get the mean. Being able to recognize if an answer is reasonable is a very important part of mathematics.

The development of number sense provides students with the mathematical power to understand numbers that are part of everyday life. Everyone needs to work together to help children develop a good sense of numbers.

News from the Media Center...

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.

~ Walt Disney ~

Our Spring Book Fair begins Friday, April 30th and will continue through Friday, May 7th. If you are interested in volunteering please email or call me. Family Night will be on Monday, May 3rd from 5:00-7:00. Information will be coming home at the end of the month. However, I am trying to schedule volunteers and I would love to have you help.

The Recipe Book has been submitted to Morris Cookbooks. It should be returned the beginning of April. The approximate cost of each cookbook will be \$10.00. Forms will be sent home soon so you can pre-order your cookbook. Thanks for all the wonderful recipes. This is the first Hurlock Elementary School Cookbook and it is amazing.

Please call or email me anytime about questions. Also, if you are not on our parent email list please send me your email address so I can email you updates.

douglask@dcpsmd.org



The Maryland State Assessment (MSA)

In the coming month your 3rd, 4th or 5th child will be taking the MSA test. Here are some helpful tips for reducing test anxiety and some test taking tips.

Reducing Anxiety: If your child worries too much about taking a test they may just work themselves into poor performance. Here are a few tips to soothe their nerves:

- *Continue to listen carefully to the teacher-they have been teaching strategies for answering test questions all year long
- *The test score isn't everything—attendance, attitude and effort can all help with a child's performance. Even when a child is unsure about an answer, encourage them to always make an attempt.
- *Remember, a good night's sleep and a normal schedule the nights before testing helps lessen the anxiety of the "testing" days

Test Taking Tips: The following tips are good for everyday classroom activities, not just for testing!

- *Remind your child to listen and follow directions—teachers tell students things they need to know that means the difference between a strong answer or a poor answer
- *Give your child extra practice at following directions—make a game of it, follow directions for a recipe or try timing your child as they complete a task—tests have time limits
- *Again, make sure your child is physically ready for the test—your child needs a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before taking any test
- *Dress your child in layers so they can adjust to the temperature—there is nothing worse than being too hot or too cold.

Remind your child that they have worked hard all year long! The MSA test is just a test that shows how hard our school has worked and is progressing in reading and mathematics!

From the Assistant Principal...

Now that we're all out from under the feet of flakes that fell in February, we can get back on track with our scheduled events! Please come to our **FACTS AND FLICKS** night on **Thursday, March 4th at 6:00 PM!** While the children are treated to a movie in the gym, parents will have the opportunity to hear about a variety of topics including, **Understanding Child Behaviors, Bullying, MSA Testing, Household Science Projects** and more! As always, the bus will run its regular rout and a **PIZZA DINNER IS INCLUDED!**

DON'T FORGET TO REVIEW YOUR FAMILY SCHOOL COMPACT! When we started this year Mrs. Teat and Mr. Stout, the Hurlock Elementary Teachers, the Students and their Parents or Guardians all signed a compact agreeing to do their parts to help their child/children succeed in school. We have had a great start, so let's keep that going! Here are four more examples of some of the things we all agreed to:

Mrs. Teat and Mr. Stout will: Work with the Hurlock community to encourage their support and involvement in the academic and behavioral success of our students.

H.E.S. Teachers will: Encourage and support the partnership between the home and school to ensure all students' academic and behavioral success.

Family/Home will: Regularly monitor our child(ren)'s progress in school by writing notes, making phone calls, reviewing weekly behavior checklists, checking agendas daily, making periodic visits, and attending conferences and school functions.

H.E.S. Students will: Complete all school assignments, complete my homework, and read at home each day.

If you need a new copy of the agreement just let us know and we'll be happy to share it!