



Falcon Newsletter

Phelps Luck Elementary (410) 313-6886

<http://ples.hcpss.org>

February 19, 2015

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 25
Monday, March 2
March 2 – 6

3rd Grade Field Trip to Monster Golf
Progress Reports home
Kindergarten Registration, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

From the Principal. . .

Dear Parents,

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Lettuce.
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in, it's freezing outside.

I know it is not Jimmy Fallon worthy, but I thought a cold weather knock-knock joke would certainly be appropriate considering the Arctic blast we are experiencing☺.

At PLES, our intermediate teachers and students are preparing to take the upcoming PARCC assessments. PARCC stands for "Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career." The assessment is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, specifically those standards associated with Math and ELA. Students across every county in Maryland and in multiple states throughout the United States will participate in PARCC testing. PARCC replaces the previous Maryland-based assessments (ELA and Math) for intermediate grades called MSA. However, our 5th graders will continue to participate in MSA Science in May.

Please understand that "preparing for the upcoming PARCC assessments" does not mean that we are "teaching to the test." We are spending our time teaching the standards outlined in Common Core. However, PARCC is a web and computer based assessment. Teachers are taking the time necessary to help students become more familiar with the tools available to navigate the online assessment. Among the tools that students will have access to during testing are:

1. Equation Editor – an application aimed to help students document and create equations that support/justify their problem solving processes (math only).
2. Tools that could be utilized by eliminating possible distracter answers by stamping an oversized X across those items that are not necessary to solve the problem accurately.
3. Text to Speech- an application that students could access, if needed, to review directions multiple times. Text to Speech allows the computer to read the directions to a mathematical task (math only). Students will be provided headphones during PARCC testing.

Teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5 are exposing students to these web based tools throughout this week and will then provide opportunities for students to gain PARCC experience through simulated PARCC practices scheduled next week (week of February 23). Formal PARCC assessments will take place in March according to the following schedule.

3rd Grade

McCann (AM) ELA	March 10, 11, 12
Sacks (AM) ELA	March 10, 11, 12
Crockett (AM) Math	March 11, 12
Fleck (AM) Math	March 11, 12
Grey (AM) Math	March 11, 12

McCann (PM) ELA	March 17, 18, 19
Sacks (PM) ELA	March 17, 18, 19
Smith (PM) ELA	March 17, 18, 19
Crockett (PM) Math	March 18, 19
Grey (PM) Math	March 18, 19

4th Grade

Leess (AM) ELA	March 9, 10, 11
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Quinn (AM) ELA	March 9, 10, 11
Lardner (AM) Math	March 12, 13
Schroeder (AM) Math	March 12, 13

Leess (PM) ELA	March 18, 19, 20
Quinn (PM) ELA	March 18, 19, 20
Lardner (PM) Math	March 24, 25
Schroeder (PM) Math	March 24, 25

5th Grade

Milton (AM) ELA	March 9, 10, 11
Giles (AM) Math	March 12, 13
Rembert (AM) Math	March 12, 13

Menton (PM) ELA	March 18, 19, 20
Milton (PM) ELA	March 18, 19, 20
Rembert (PM) Math	March 18, 19, 20

Students will also participate in PARCC testing once again in May. You can obtain more information regarding PARCC via our either the PLES or HCPSS website.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions; I would be happy to talk with you!

School News

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten

Registration for students entering Kindergarten in August 2015 starts on Mon., March 2nd and runs through Fri., March 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Phelps Luck Elementary. Parents or guardians are to register students at the school serving the address where the child's parent or guardian resides. Information on neighborhood schools can be found through School Locator (<https://hcpss2.securesites.net/SchoolLocator/index.jsp>) on the school system web site or by calling the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682.

The following documents are needed for registration:

- Child's evidence of birth
- An authorized record of immunizations
- Proof of residency in the form of a lease or deed and a utility bill
- Photo ID of parent/guardian
- Proof of custody (if applicable)

Girls On The Run

The 2015 Spring season will begin the week of March 15th and will end the week of May 31st, with our culminating 5k event on May 30th, 2015 at 8:00 am. **For any questions regarding registration please call Susan at 443-864-8593. Registration opens February 22nd at 12:00 noon! Go to www.gotrcentralmd.org to register.

From the Music Department

Congratulations to Willis Crosby, Mia Lask and Alexandra Nelson who were nominated to perform with the Howard County Honor Band this spring. They have worked hard and earned the nomination. Way to go Willis, Mia and Alex!

Visitor Sign In Procedures

With the "Lobby Guard" system you **MUST** have your license with you every time you come to visit the school. In order for the system to work correctly, please make sure to have your license with you every time you visit.



No Doubts... No Limits...

Sean Martin ~ Principal

Connie Fowlkes ~ Assistant Principal