

# THE BULLDOG BUZZ

## Find out what's happening at John Humbird School

### From the desk of Mrs. Morgan

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break. We had a very busy December with a visit from Santa and all students received a book and the book fair was a success with all students receiving a book as well. Books for these events were purchased through our concentration of poverty grant. I hope that over the break, you were able to read those books with your child. Our Grade 1 students put on a fabulous Christmas program for families, staff, and students. We have activities planned in January so check your child's Wednesday folder for important information and RSVP information. We are working on a school wide attendance incentive to boost and improve our attendance. Being at school is very important. Together we can make a difference in your child's education. Stay warm!!!



## January

### Important Dates to Remember - January

- 1st – Schools and Offices Closed
- 2nd – Schools re-open
- 14th – Jump rope for Heart Assembly kick-off
- 16th – End of 2nd marking period
- 17th – Schools Closed – Principal Staff Development AM / Teacher Work Time PM
- 20th – Schools and Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 24th – Report Cards published in ASPEN

### February

- 14th – 3-hour early dismissal - Valentine's Day Party / Supervisor PD PM
- 17th – Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents' Day

During January and February our students will participate in Nature of Art (Grades 3, 4, and 5) and Elementary Edibles (prek3 - Grade 5). Our students love participating in these programs.

### Message from Jill Starr, LCSW-C

Being hard on children does not make them stronger, children and people in general are strengthened through compassion and understanding, regardless of their gender or age.

### A message from Snap-Ed...

#### **NUTRITION EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM**

Hello Parents & Families! Your child's school is collaborating with University of Maryland Extension again this year. Snap-Ed educators from the Extension Office and classroom teachers will rotate teaching monthly nutrition lessons. We will also promote activities that help your child move more and try new foods. Teaching healthy habits is a team effort! Here are some ways you can get involved. **Take action at home!**

- Ask your child about the nutrition lessons and healthy foods they try in the classroom. Try a new food at home as a family.
- Visit our blog at [go.umd.edu/eatsmart-blog](http://go.umd.edu/eatsmart-blog) for tips to keep your family healthy and active.
- Look for newsletters, recipes, and other information in your child's backpack. Cook and try new foods together as a family. Follow your school's social media sites and classroom pages to see what is happening in the classroom and throughout the school.

### Parent and Family Engagement News

#### **Engage, Connect, and Learn**

As a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) resource, the Maryland Families Engage website was designed to help build a community of support for those who care for and work with children. The database of resources contains links to child development, family engagement initiatives, mental health, nutrition, literacy and more. The website is [www.marylandfamiliesengage.org](http://www.marylandfamiliesengage.org). Please take a moment to preview the site.

Please have students bring coats, hats, and gloves for recess. Students will be going outside for recess if the temperature is above 32 degrees. Students will have an inside assignment if not dressed for the weather.

### Did you know?

John Humbird school wide attendance is 5.03% below the goal. Our goal is 94% and we are at 88.97%. Although we have made improvement, we still have one of the lowest attendance rates in the district. For December, Grade 1 had the best school attendance with 92.75%. Grade 3 had 92.25%. We are rewarding classrooms with the most 100% days for the month. Congratulations to Mrs. Hipp's class who had the most perfect attendance days for December. Please continue to establish morning and bedtime routines so that your child is well rested and arrives to school on time. The use of technology before bedtime can negatively affect our child's sleep quality. Please work with your child to turn off tablets, phones, and video games at least an hour before bedtime to help them get a good night's sleep for school each morning. Help us to have your child well rested to start their day.

### TITLE I Tip

#### Title I Complaint Policy

If parents believe that a federal regulation has been violated, they are able to express their concerns through the use of a Complaint Form which is available in the school office. The policy is also posted in our school and is on the Allegany County Public Schools' website: [www.acpsmd.org](http://www.acpsmd.org)

### Grade Level News

**Prek 4** - It was fun to get off to such a wintry start for January! We have many winter and snow themed activities planned for the rest of the month. We will also continue our Frog Street Theme 4 Compare and Contrast. Stories in the next 2 weeks include Real and Make Believe, as well Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. These stories are always favorites! Then, next up, will be another fun theme: Creative Me! In math, we will continue 2 and 3 D shapes and representing numbers in many ways. We will also add parallel lines and measurement. As you are aware, we have completed our three true snow days. The next inclement weather days will be completed using virtual instruction. All of our families have participated in our Wednesday Home Extension Activities and should be familiar with logging on to laptops. A big thank you in advance to guiding and supporting your kiddos as we learn online together! If you have any questions about synchronous learning, please get in touch with me before the next snow or ice day! You can send a note in the daily folder or you can call me at school at 301-724-8842. We will continue our Wednesday Home Extension Activities as we move through the rest of the school year.

**Kindergarten** - Kindergarten is ready to knock some socks off in the new year! We have been working on letter and sound recognition, blending, and memory words in Reading. In Math, we have been practicing our addition and subtraction facts to 5. Our goal is to be fluent with our facts to 5 by the end of kindergarten. We are also working on comparing numbers to 10 using math language like 'greater than, less than, equal to.' We are working on identifying sets to 10 and writing the numbers. In science, we just finished a unit on movement and learned about pushes, pulls, and forces. We will begin our Social Studies unit this week on how things change over time. The children are working very hard on getting into the 100 club-counting to 100 without help. Happy New Year to everyone!

**Grade 1** - First graders have started 2025 off on the right foot! In class, students are actively preparing to become second graders. Students are reviewing ways to show how to be respectful, responsible, and ready in the classroom. In ELA, students are working on super e words and narrative writing. In Math, students are working on strategies to solve addition and subtraction word problems within 20. First graders are also gearing up for the mid-year DIBELS assessment as well as the mid-year i-Ready diagnostic. We hope that everyone has a safe and healthy new year!

**Grade 2** - Happy New Year! Second grade is working hard and doing a great job! In English/Language Arts, the students have been working in the Superkids Take on 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade reader and are almost ready to receive their new Superkids reader for the second semester. They have been reading many interesting informational articles in Supermagazine about different ways that we can move from place to place. In math class, the boys and girls have just finished units on time and money and will be starting a unit on place value with numbers to 1000. Have your child practice counting coins and telling time each day. The more practice with these skills, the better! Students will be bringing their devices home at least one time per week. Don't forget to return the device the following day. Please remember to check your child's blue folder daily for assignments!

**Grade 3** - Happy New Year John Humbird families! Third grade has just begun the unit on *The Ancient Roman Civilization in ELA*. Students will be introduced to the culture of ancient Rome, including religion, food, education, legends, social class structure, and entertainment. In math we are finishing up the multiplication and division unit, and then beginning lessons on measuring the area of a shape. We are also working on MCAP math problems to practice for our first experience taking the state test called, MCAP, in the spring. Best wishes for a healthy new year! As always we appreciate all of your support!

**Grade 4** - Welcome back and we hope you had a relaxing and healthy break. We hope that you are excited to be back and ready to learn. In Math this month, we will be working on equivalent fractions, adding fractions, and subtracting fractions. Currently, we are reviewing energy in Science. In ELA, we are working on a unit entitled Eureka. In this unit, the students will work collaboratively to solve multiple scenarios. Please continue to practice your Math facts and read nightly.

**Grade 5** - During the month of January we are beginning our fifth unit in CKLA titled "The Renaissance". In this unit we will learn about historical artists of the Renaissance era. In science, we will continue our mixtures and solutions unit and continue preparing ourselves for our MISA assessment in the spring. We will start sending our review sheets of previous level science worksheets home as we prepare for our MISA assessment. In math, we will be continuing our fractions and decimals unit where we will learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and decimals. During January we will also be taking our middle of year diagnostic to see the growth your student has made thus far! Keep an eye out for a printed review of their assessment! As you are shopping this new year, give you receipts to your child and have them practice Adding and Subtracting decimals! We are very excited to start the new year motivated and ready to succeed! Happy New Year from the 5th grade team!

### Dismissal Communication

Please send a note to your child's teacher when your child has a dismissal change. While we understand that situations arise during the day, please keep calling the school regarding dismissal changes to a **minimum**. When the office has to call classrooms to communicate changes in dismissal it disrupts the learning of the students. Also, students move throughout the building during the day and it is sometimes challenging to ensure that all involved hear the dismissal change. Thank you for your cooperation so that we can assure that the children arrive home safely and classroom disruptions are kept to a minimum.

### John Humbird School Rules

- ❖ Be Respectful
- ❖ Be Responsible
- ❖ Be Ready

### Media News from Mrs. Watson

This is a great time to make some New Year's resolutions. What better resolution to make this year than to help your child excel at reading? This is a goal, which you and your child can tackle together. You can start by reading with your child a little each night. Another idea is to set a timer and have your child read independently for 15 minutes. These are ways to promote reading within your home. Happy NEW year with NEW reading goals!

### Emergency Contact Information

Many families update contact information and numbers after the New Year. Please make sure that you contact the office if addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or contacts have changed and need updated. Important information is often distributed by student documentation on file. Nurse Susan needs updated and current information for her files in the health room.