

Principal's Newsletter

Harmony Elementary School

September 2018

Harmony Elementary School Mission:

The mission of Harmony Elementary School is to facilitate a safe and orderly environment where excellence in learning provides all children the ability to think, learn, and lead.

Upcoming Events



Monday, Sept. 3

Labor Day, no school

Tuesday, Sept. 4 – Grandparents' Lunch for

Wednesday, Sept. 5 – Grandparents' Lunch for

Thursday, Sept. 6 – Grandparents' Lunch for

Friday, Sept. 7 – Grandparents' Lunch for

Tuesday, Sept. 11 – Patriots' Day

Wednesday, Sept. 12 – School Advisory Council
4:00 all parents are invited to attend

Friday, Sept. 14 – Muffins for Moms/Title I
Literacy Tips 7:00 am in media center

Monday, Sept. 17 – Annual Title I Parent Meeting
and Curriculum Night 6:00 pm

Monday, Sept. 17 to Friday, Sept. 21 – Fall Book
Fair and Spirit Week (more details to come)

Monday, September 24 – Superintendent Chat
with Dr. Carlton Wilson

Thursday, Oct. 4 – Fall Pictures

Friday, Oct. 5 – First Nine Week Progress Report

Monday, Oct. 8 to Friday, Oct. 12 – Fall Break

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for over 4 weeks! Our students have come in ready to learn and we have settled into the daily routines. Please remember that **you play a vital role in your child's success at school**. You can help by asking your child about his/her day, having a positive attitude about learning, and reading to or with your child every night. You would be amazed what 20 minutes of reading with your child each night will do for his/her language development and reading skills. Thank you for all your support at home!

Corey Thompson, Principal



Thank you for your efforts to get your children to school on time each day!

*If your student needs to eat breakfast at school, please make arrangements for him/her to arrive **before 8:25**. This will allow time for eating breakfast and getting to class on time.*

***Our school day starts at 8:30** and instruction begins right away. Students who are late arrivals miss valuable learning.*

Thank You!



Thank you to all of our parents who have supported our PTO by joining. The cost of membership is \$5 and the funds go to support our school. This is an excellent organization that works with our teachers and administration to provide the very best for our children! If you need a membership form, please stop by the office and we will gladly provide one for you.

Behavior Expectations

We have been working on character education, behavior expectations, and social emotional learning to ensure safe, responsible and respectful learners. Whether we are in the classroom, in the halls, in the cafeteria, outside at recess, or in another area of the school, we have spent time reviewing our school's expectations and how it should look and sound to be appropriate in our school. We know when students are not feeling safe, no learning can occur. In an effort to reward students, teachers have been handing out "House Tickets" and "Talon Tokens" when they see a student demonstrating safe, respectful and/or responsible behaviors. Each week, house tickets are collected and counted to determine which House has earned the most tickets. The winning house will earn a party at the end of each nine weeks.

Below is information about our Houses of Harmony which allows students in all grade levels to be in a group of peers. Please ask your students about their house and what they can do to earn a house ticket.

Be sure to ask your child or children how they are being safe, respectful and responsible at school. Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe at school! Remember, HES students: SOAR!

Strive to do your best Own your actions Attitudes will be positive Respect self and others

The Houses of Harmony

Students at Harmony Elementary are divided into four houses:

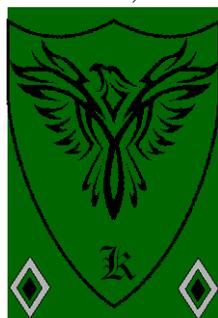
Sulawesi (Red); Kinabalu (Green); Nicobar (Blue); and Bateleur (yellow).

The names of the houses are based on different species of eagles located around the world. Each week, house tickets are collected, counted, and recorded on our house board to track the house with the most tickets. Students may earn house tickets for going above and beyond with their behavior or academic attempts. They do not have to be successful to earn a house ticket, just work hard and put forth effort.

At the end of the nine weeks, the house with the most tickets will earn a house party.



SULAWESI



KINABALU



NICOBAR



BATELEUR

A Word on Parenting . . .

When considering a response of "No" for your child, you might consider other options:

- Give a choice and imply consequences: "Gee, I don't think that is a very good decision and I'm pretty sure it might work out poorly for you."
- Suggest an alternative behavior without ordering it: "I think that if I were in your shoes, I would probably change my tone of voice rather than being asked to leave."
- Ask for illumination (without using a witness stand tone of voice): "I've always wondered about what leads kids to be obnoxious. Can you help me understand that?"
- Give a direct question: "How do you think this is going to work out for you?"

Remember, there is nothing wrong with telling a kid "no." However, that means the response is not clearly thought through by the child. If we can say something that gets the kid to make his own decision, we are further ahead.

*Taken from Love and Logic

CHILDREN CLOSE
THEIR EARS TO
ADVICE BUT
OPEN THEIR EYES
TO EXAMPLE.

www.MyQuotesHome.com

The way we talk to
our children becomes
their inner voice.

Ways to Stay in Touch

- Read your child's newsletter
- Email or call your child's teacher with questions or concerns
- Check out the HES Website <http://harmonyelementary.pickens.k12.ga.us/>
- Look for us on Facebook and Twitter: Harmony Elementary School Jasper, GA
- Listen for robo-calls and email alerts from Infinite Campus
- Sign up for Parent Portal on Infinite Campus by emailing parentportal@pickenscountyschools.org. This will allow you to track student grades and attendance.
- Visit the school to volunteer or if you have questions
- Call for your child's lunch schedule if you would like to have lunch at HES.

Homework Tips for Parents

1. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

2. Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils, and a dictionary, are available.

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects, and get them in advance.

3. Help your child with time management.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

4. Be positive about homework.

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

5. When your child does homework, you do homework.

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

6. When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

7. Stay informed.

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and your child's class rules.

8. Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

9. Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

10. Reward progress in homework.

If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

11. Read with your child and encourage them to read on their own.

Calling Volunteers!!

Interested in helping at the Primary School?
Want to become a more integral part of our school
community? Volunteer!

We have a coordinated volunteer program and
have been so impressed with the number of individuals
who have expressed an interest in helping in our school.
We gladly welcome volunteers to help in a variety of
ways:

- *Teacher helper (copies, organization)
- *Reading to the class
- *Math practice
- *Bookroom help (organization)

If you missed receiving information and would
like to sign up to volunteer, please stop by the office to
schedule a time for training. The extra hands to help
with making copies, assisting teachers in the classrooms,
and offering extra reading/math support for students
are SO appreciated!

Please call or email Mrs. Weaver to schedule
a time for volunteer training. You may contact her
at (706)253-1840 or

There is no such thing
as a perfect parent
So just be a real one.

Sue Atkins

A note from Coach Loggins

Please remember to send your child to
school in tennis shoes on Physical
Education days. Shoes can make a big
difference in the safety of your child and
his/her classmates.

**Believe in yourself. As
a parent, you are a
child's best therapist
and advocate.**