

April 2021

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Cougar News

3501 N. Cork Road, Plant City, FL 33565

(813) 757-9353 <http://cork.mysdhc.org>
Hillsborough County Public School

Cork Elementary School

Sherri Black, Principal
Rosemarie Manhertz, AP

Important Dates

APRIL	1	Spirit Night-Fred's Market Specials
	2	NO SCHOOL Non-Student Day
	16	Drive-Thru Cougar Pawlooza Information coming soon
	19	Report Cards Online and Blue Folders go home
	22	ZOOM Conference Night 3:00-6:00 p.m.
MAY	6	Spirit Night-Fred's Market 5th Grade
	10	NO Early Release—pickup at 1:55
	17	NO Early Release—pickup at 1:55
	24	NO Early Release—pickup at 1:55
	28	Last Day of School - Early Release at 11:25.

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Here we are once again in the final quarter of the year. It always amazes me how fast the school year seems to fly by after the winter break. It certainly is a busy time of year! Standardized testing has begun, and your child will have a tremendous advantage if they are well rested, in attendance, and on time each day. Please make sure to express your support and confidence that he/she is prepared and will do well on the exams. It is important that they understand testing is part of the instructional process and is nothing to fear. The students are ready. I tell them, "It's time to show what you know!"

Our final conference night of the year is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 22nd, from 3:00 -6:00. Please be looking for conference requests from teachers that will be going out in the near future. You are always welcome to schedule a conference for this evening, even if you do not receive a formal invitation. We look forward to "seeing" you virtually!

While we are nearing the end of the school year, it is still vitally important that students arrive on time if they are car riders. Many parents are now arriving later and later and it's causing many students to be marked tardy. We need everyone's help in leaving a little earlier so that the car line does not get backed up in the mornings. If you will remember back to the beginning of this school year, we had very few students arriving late and that is because more parents were dropping off in the car line earlier – between 7:10 and 7:30.

One more important point about the car line.... A HCSO developed our entrance and exit routes. The cones that are in the middle of the road are there for a purpose. It's dangerous for cars to turn left as there is oncoming traffic that is difficult to see, as cars are also lined up on the side of the road awaiting entry. Additionally, it creates a back-up of cars on campus and on Cork Road which traps our buses in the mornings and makes them late trying to get the students to campus. Please know that illegally going around these cones and ignoring the county's "No U-Turn" and "Speed Limit" signs could result in a fine up to \$ 210.00. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our students, families, and community members safe.

Here's to a great remainder to this very challenging school year!

With Cougar Pride,

Mrs. Black



**Instruction begins promptly at
7:40.**

**Your child is marked tardy if
they arrive at 7:40.**

Arrival time is 7:10-7:35.



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @
HCPSCorkES**

We will tweet what's
happening at Cork.

Kindergarten

Wow! We have made it to the last nine weeks of school. This month in kindergarten we are gearing up to for the final stretch. Continue being the awesome parents you've been by working with your child every day to help them succeed in school. Yet, we still have a lot to do.

In math, we are using addition and subtraction within 5 to solve word problems involving both addends unknown.

In reading, we are still learning sight words to become strong learners. We are using strategies like sounding out and blending sounds to read words. We are also, decoding words and changing the beginning sounds to create new words.

In Science, students are learning about plants and their environment.

Finally, in Social Studies we are learning how important it is to know the difference between wants and needs.

There are no words to express how much we appreciate you, as parents, for working with your child at home to help them succeed. Please continue reading with your child every day for 15-20 minutes and practicing sight words. Sight words help your child become fluent readers and give them the confidence to continue growing in their learning.

Grade 3

Happy Spring! We cannot believe how fast the school year is flying by! These future 4th graders are preparing and working so hard during a pandemic. We have officially started the fourth nine weeks of this school year. Here is what is going on in the 3rd grade world at Cork Elementary!

FSA testing is coming up very quickly! Please make sure your child eats breakfast and has a good night's sleep before testing!

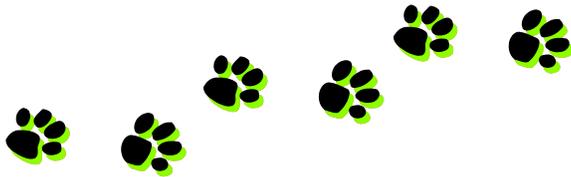
FSA Reading: April 6 & 7

FSA Math: May 10 & 11

We will also be celebrating Ag literacy week on 4/22 and it will be via Zoom with the Ag class from PCHS.

Please make sure your child is reading every night. They can read on Achieve 3000, Myon, and I-ready. These applications can be accessed through Clever! Please encourage your child to read daily so that they can build their fluency and comprehension.

Our Mathematicians are learning about Perimeter and Area in Math. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication and division facts at home. This will better prepare them for fourth grade! In Science, we are learning about parts of a plant and how each part plays a key role in helping the plant survive.



Grade 5

5th Grade is coming to a close soon, but it is still a VERY important time of year! This month, we will be continuing our 5th Grade content and beginning review for the FSA and SSA. The FSA and SSA are scheduled for the beginning of May. A paper went home with all of the dates and each student has written those dates in their agenda. Please try and schedule all appointments for after school if possible. These tests are 2-day tests and session 2 cannot be taken until session 1 is completed.

In reading, please make sure your child is continuing to read each night to build fluency. If possible, ask questions to your child about what they are reading. Retelling is a great way for students to work on summarizing.

In math and science, review questions are being sent home as homework. It is vital students are completing their homework each night. The SSA test students on all science standards from Kindergarten to 5th Grade, so a way we review some of those is through the homework. We appreciate all of your help with making your child as success as possible!

Grade 1

Friday, March 26th ended our third quarter grading period. First grade is hard at work, finishing this year's lessons.

Our mathematicians have completed the units on geometry and data, and are now working hard on place value and preparing to start addition and subtraction with regrouping.

The scientists have been studying living and non-living things and their habitats/environments.

In Social Studies, we have been exploring maps and globes and how to use/read them.

Our readers and writers are working on fluency and comprehension, using text features to help identify key details related to the main idea. We are incorporating these skills into our own writing, while still focusing on proper use of capitalization and conventions.



Music

As we enter the final nine weeks of the school year, I am going to share some cool websites students might enjoy accessing at home.

For all grade levels: <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>

Chrome Music Lab has several different music "experiments" for students and parents to explore. "Song Maker" allows you to save and share your work.

Blob Opera: <https://artsandculture.google.com/experiment/blob-opera/AAHWrq360NcGbw?hl=en>

Blob Opera is another Google music experiment. Students can listen to the four changed voices: soprano, alto, tenor and bass, and experiment with using combinations of different voices. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd can listen for which voices are high and low. 3rd, 4th and 5th can listen for harmony and how the timbres (pronounced "tam-burs" and means the unique sound of a voice or instrument) blend.

The Little Kids Rock Jam Zone(<https://www.littlekidsrock.org/jamzone/>) is geared toward student musicians. If your child has an instrument they are learning to play (guitar, bass,



Media Center

Congratulations to the following SLAM winners:

K-2 2D Art Project-Savannah Brocksmith-2nd Grade-Mrs. Ware's Class

3-5 2D Art Project-Camila Gutierrez-Higareda-5th Grade-Mrs. Bennett's Class

3-5 Digital Book Trailer-Taryn Eads and Callie Moore-5th Grade-Mrs. Miller's Class



These students will be participating in the Virtual SLAM Showcase on April 8, 2021. They will take part in two author visits as well as seeing projects created by students from throughout the county.

Speech and Language

Like all public schools in Hillsborough County, Cork Elementary has Speech and Language Impaired Programs for our students who require therapy and consultation services for their speech and/or language skills. There are several requirements for students to meet and be staffed into the program that offers additional support to develop and maintain these skills in the educational setting. A speech and/or language screening, hearing and vision screenings, a standardized evaluation, classroom observations, and teacher and parent input are all part of the extensive process in qualifying for these programs.

Speech includes articulation, which is how your child produces sounds. For example, we've all heard children say "wed" for red or "yeyyoh" for yellow. These are normal developmental speech patterns for a young child; however, if that persists or if your child makes several speech sound errors to where other people find it difficult to understand him/her, there may be a speech delay or disorder present. Speech therapy also addresses consistent and impactful stuttering in children. Language impairments include receptive (what your child *understands*) and expressive (what you child *says*) components, such as answering wh- questions, reading comprehension, using/understanding grammar, and following multi-step directions, to name a few. Language therapy can also address pragmatic (social) skill deficits in children with trauma, congenital, or developmental disabilities such as Autism.

If you are concerned about your child's speech, language, or pragmatic development, please feel free to contact our Speech-Language Pathologist, Kerri Snavelly, at (813) 757-9353 or send her an email at kerri.coons@hcps.net.



Importance of Attendance

Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the spring break as families squeeze in a few more days off. This year in particular, some students are facing new barriers to participating in learning, or are experiencing fatigue from attending school all day from home.

We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost instructional time. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school: too many absences can affect a student's chances for academic success and for graduation.

Right up until break starts and on the first day back, our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning. You can help us convey that message. This spring season, give your children the gift of reaching for their hopes and dreams and the habit of school attendance.

Mrs. Autrey, Social Worker

Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination

Pursuant to Title VI, Title IX, Section 504/Title II and other civil rights regulations, the School District of Hillsborough County does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, genetic information or pregnancy in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices; and it will take immediate action to eliminate such harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The District also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, Compliance

901 East Kennedy Boulevard

Tampa, FL 33602

(813) 272-4000

pansy.houghton@sdhc.k12.fl.us



PLEASE DO NOT SEND SODA CANS IN LUNCH-BOXES! We are trying to teach students to make healthy choices and hope this can be modeled at home as well as school!




School Website:
CORK.MYSDHC.ORG



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@HCPSCorkES



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Absence Line

Please let us know of your child's absence by 10:00 am.

Call 757-9353 and press #1 during the greeting. Leave your child's name, teacher's name, date and reason for the absence.



Transportation Changes

If your child will be changing the method of his or her transportation home, please send in a note to your child's teacher. We must have all transportation changes in writing.



Estimados Padres

Si necesitan esta información en español, por favor avisan a la oficina, 757-9353. *Gracias*