



Hardin-Houston Elementary

2020—2021

October Newsletter

Important Dates -

10/15- End of 1st Nine Weeks

**10/16- No School- Teacher
Prof. Dev.**

10/19- Being 2nd Nine Weeks

A message from PTO:

- **THANK YOU** to all of the students, volunteers, staff and community support for our annual mum sale! We sold over 2800 mums setting a new record. This would not have been possible without your generous support!!

- **PTO next meeting date: Thursday, October 15th at 5:30 pm** in the school commons. Please join us if you are interested in learning more about PTO or becoming an active member!



A message from the Principal

I am very happy to be writing a message for our second monthly newsletter this year. It is so wonderful that we are still able to be in session together. I must admit that it has gone better than I had imagined. Many of my fellow principals across the state do not have students in their buildings, and I can sense their jealousy when I talk about our experiences during our regularly scheduled meetings. I feel very blessed to have parents who support us as a District and trust us to take care of our students. I sincerely thank you.

As hard as it seems to believe, the first quarter will end on October 15. Students will not have school on Friday, October 16. Our staff will be participating in Professional Development that day. They will be learning techniques to fulfill our Writing across the Curriculum Goal that is a part of the District's Strategic Plan. All teachers in the District will be using these writing strategies in their classrooms, and it is evidence-based practice for improved writing. We are very excited to bring this initiative to our District's staff and students.

The Ohio Department of Education has informed us that everything is in place this year in regards to Ohio State Tests (OSTs). Students in grades kindergarten through three are to be identified as being on track or not on track to pass the third grade reading test. Anyone who is identified as not on track will be placed on a Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP). We are in the process of that currently, and parents will be notified if their child is placed on a RIMP. Third graders will take the fall OST as one of the several chances they have to pass the test. As of now, students who don't pass that test or an acceptable alternative test are required to be retained. State officials are considering leaving that decision up to school administrators. I will keep you updated on that decision.

Enjoy the beauty that autumn brings! It's a good time to learn to enjoy the small gifts that life provides.



Counselor Corner

The month of September was quite a success. As the school counselor, I have met with every class and started introducing topics at each grade level. Students in grades 4-6 have focused on RESPECT. During the classroom lesson, students were taught 4 types of respect: respecting self (self-care & self-worth), respecting others, respecting property/environment, and respecting authority). In grades K-2, the lessons have been geared more on kindness and how kindness helps us build friendships. With grade 3, we have introduced growth mindset, and how a growth mindset shifts the way we think. During this lesson, students created a growth mindset poster to hang in their locker.

For the month of October, most grade levels will cover some aspect of bullying. This has become the new buzz word and sometimes it is used out of context. A bully is a person or group of people doing something or saying something ON PURPOSE to hurt someone else (physically or emotionally) repeatedly and involves an imbalance of power. However, students need to know the correct way to handle situations when faced with a person who is being rude, mean, or bullying. In grades K-3 students will focus on building friendships and resolving conflict.

If you have any questions regarding these topics or you would like to discuss in further detail, please feel free to contact me at amake-la@hardinhouston.org or (937) 295-3010 ext. 1002.

