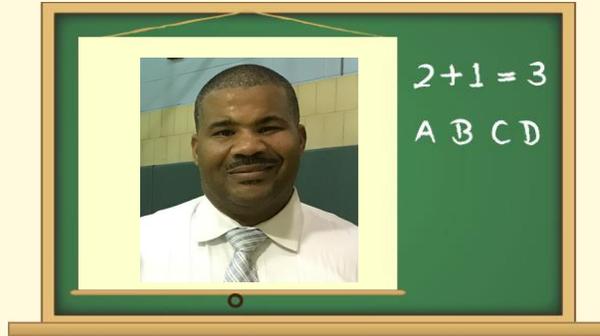


# WOODLIN WIZARD NEWS

April 2019 Issue



Hello, Wizard Parents.

We are entering our last quarter for the school year, winter is behind us, our Spring Break is ahead of us (from April 17 – 22), and our students are getting eager for the school-less days of summer.

For parents and teachers alike, we are in that time of year when keeping our students focused and engaged with their **learning** and their **homework** can be even more of a challenge.

When you hear that familiar refrain, “*Do I have to do my homework ‘cause it’s too hard,*” there is help for you.

**Homework Hotline Live (HHL)** is an excellent, yet underutilized resource for our students.

With HHL, your child gets **FREE after-school homework help from MCPS teachers.**

Students can call the **LIVE TV show** at 301-279-3234 or send a question online via text (724-427-5445) or email. From 4:40 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, your child can watch teachers answer his or her homework questions live on MCPS-TV. **Online help is available too** from 6 pm to 9 pm on Mondays through Thursdays.

To take advantage of this **free help** for your child to get their homework completed, go to [www.AskHLL.org](http://www.AskHLL.org) for more information and to **download the free HHL app!**

No more excuses about not getting their homework done as the days get longer and the temperatures climb higher.

Keep this general information handy:

- [www.AskHLL.org](http://www.AskHLL.org) (to find more information and to download the free HHL app)
- Phone: 301-279-3234 (to call the LIVE TV show)
- Text: 724-427-5445 (to submit a question to the show)
- Live TV show is on Comcast 33, Verizon 35, and RCN 88

Check out **Homework Hotline Live.** Your child no longer needs to struggle with or dawdle over completing his or her homework.

Thank you.

*Craig Jackson*



## Mrs. Scott's Home & School Connection: April Tip

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**What can you do for test anxiety, which may affect your children during April and May when MCPS students undergo a number of standardized tests in addition to their regular class tests?**

Often when we think of test anxiety, we associate it with teenagers, the SAT test or some other important exam. However, the truth is that even very young students can experience test anxiety. With the increase in tests and assessments on the elementary school level, more and more young students are experiencing symptoms of test anxiety.

Here are a few steps you can take to help your child tackle anxiety about tests before it becomes overwhelming for them:

- **Ask questions to clarify how your child is feeling.** “What is your biggest worry?” “Do you worry when you think about the test or when you take a test?”
- **Talk to the teacher regarding expectations for specific tests.** He/she may be able to suggest simple solutions for minimizing anxiety.
- **Teach basic test-taking strategies.** One strategy is coming back to a difficult question rather than dwelling on it.
- **Encourage a positive attitude or positive self-talk.** “I can do this!” “Everything is going to be fine!”
- **Teach relaxation strategies.** Suggest your child take a few deep breaths when feeling anxious or think of a calming place.
- **Bolster their confidence.** Help your child to find inner strength and belief that he/she can conquer anything.



## Kindergarten – April Activity

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As April comes in, so does the fourth quarter!

Our kinder students have grown so much over this school year!

Before **Spring break**, we will have **Spirit Week**, where we will show our school spirit by dressing up each day. Look for a flyer that will be coming home.

In **Reading**, our kinder students are back to **fiction texts**. The students will explore complex texts in our enrichment program of Junior Great Books. They will also **retell traditional stories** (fairy tales) and will have fun **acting them out in class!**

In **Math**, our students will **continue to build their fluency** with math facts within 5, decomposing, and **solve addition and subtraction word problems**.

In **Science** and **Social Studies**, our students will **observe animals** and **determine what makes them alike and different**. They will also **look at communication and transportation** in the **present** and the **past**.

As usual, we will have a very busy month!



## First Grade – April Activity

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In **Reading**, our first graders will **explore elements of poetry**, and **identify sensory words and phrases** in different poems. They will also **learn about and write** their own **similes**.

In **Writing**, the students will **compose realistic fiction stories** with characters that include a problem and solution. They will **create a book series** with their stories.

In **Math**, the students will work on adding with composing math and **will begin to learn about geometry**.

In **Science**, our first graders **will learn about germs**, how they enter the body, and ways to prevent germs from spreading. They will **engage in a hands-on activity** to learn about germs.

Our first graders will go on a **field trip to Imagination Stage on April 26<sup>th</sup>**, to see *Escape from Peligro Island!*



## Second Grade – April Activity

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In **Math**, our second graders will **use manipulatives and drawings** to add two 3-digit numbers within 1000.

In **Reading**, our students will **use Junior Great Books stories** and **guided reading texts**. They will describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning. Also, they will ask and answer questions; and identify the moral of a story.

In **Writing**, our second graders will **write different forms of poetry**.

In **Science**, students will **explore the phenomena of plant growth, seed dispersal, and pollination**.



## Third Grade – April Activity

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This April is a **special month** for our third graders: **they are very excited to participate in their first Geo Bee!** The students have practiced very hard and cannot wait to show off all that they have learned.

In **Math**, our students will **solve 2 step word problems** and **take their final MAP M for the school year.**

In **Reading**, our third graders will **read a variety of traditional tales**, including Myths and Fairytales.

In **Writing**, our students will **write their own version of a classic fairy tale.**

In **Social Studies**, our third graders **will learn about the parts of a budget.**

In **Science**, our students **will learn about living things and life cycles.**



## Fourth Grade – April Activity

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Here's a look at what your 4th grader will be learning in April.

In **Math**, our fourth graders will **apply their computational fluency** to solve a variety of word problems. Our students will **assess the reasonableness of answers** using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding. They will encounter measurement word problems involving distances, liquid volumes, and intervals of time and include problems involving **addition and subtraction of simple decimals**. They will also **use the four operations to solve multi-step word problems.**

In **Reading**, fourth graders will **summarize informational text** using main ideas and key details and paraphrase portions of information presented in diverse media. Our students will **integrate information from two texts on the same topic** and **make inferences based on information in the text**. They will **read informational text related to science content** and compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event. They will **explain how an author and speaker use reasons and evidence to support particular points**. In addition, our students will **explain procedures in a technical text** and **describe the structure of informational text.**



## *Fifth Grade – April Activity*

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What’s happening in Grade 5 in April?

April will be a **busy month** for our fifth graders. They have several events:

- the **GeoBee** final round,
- the **class picture**,
- a **trip to Albert Einstein High School** to preview some of Einstein High School’s performing arts programs, and
- the **annual Reading with Relatives** event on **April 16**.

During our **Health Unit**, our fifth graders will learn about **family life** (puberty) and **disease prevention and control** (the immune system) and **good health care** (physical and emotional).

In **Science**, the students will study **how physical traits in plants and animals are transferred from generation to generation** and **how physical traits are influenced by the environment**.

In **Social Studies**, our fifth graders will **study how economics influences society**.

In **Writing**, the students will engage in **two exciting research projects**. They will write an **opinion piece** titled “The Best Story Written by Chris Van Allsburg.” The students will also **research a county in Maryland** and **create a brochure** to inform a visitor of the history and highlights of the county.

**Thank You!**

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