

HibbettHawk



Volume 2, Issue 3

February 2010

From the Principal's Desk ... Progress reports have gone home and the end of the 3rd 9 weeks is rapidly approaching. The final 9 weeks and testing is just around the corner. The last day of the 3rd 9 weeks is March 11th and reports cards will be sent home on March 18th. Hopefully, the progress reports served as a "wake up" call for those whose work habits have been hibernating. There is still plenty of time to bring up bad grades by ALWAYS turning in homework, paying attention in class, and studying for tests. This is also a good time to join our H-cube after-school tutoring program. If you want more information concerning this after-school service, please contact Mrs. Faulkner (768-2816) or Mrs. Oakley (768-2817).

All of the administration, teachers and students at Hibbett thank you, our parents, for a wonderful day with the Ark.RAIN Wildlife Sanctuary this past Friday. Timothy Davies and his wife Toni brought a number of unusual animals to Hibbett. All of the animals are endangered due to the destruction of the rainforest. Mr. Davies is also an author of children's books including *I Sneezed Around the World* and *The Polka-Dotted Elephant*. You can find out more about this great program and talk about this experience with your child by going to the following websites:

www.arkrain.org ; www.mobileark; or their Facebook page at Ark R.A.I.N. Because of you as PTO parents, every student saw many different animals and had the opportunity to handle some of them. PTO funded this project through the money raised during our fall fundraiser. This activity was educational and immensely fun for all our students. THANKS again for providing this experience. Also, PTO has given \$100 to each teacher for additional classroom supplies. This is GREATLY appreciated during difficult economic times and state proration. We appreciate all the support PTO gives to us, and we know this helps make Hibbett a GREAT school.

Another special event we are preparing for at Hibbett is the SAT 10 and Alabama Reading and Math Test. This event occurs March 23rd - April 2nd. Your child will take a series of tests to measure academic performance on state and national standards as outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. As a parent, I want you to realize the importance of these tests. If your child scores below proficiency level on these tests, they may be in danger of not passing the graduation exam in high school. We are working really hard to help our students to succeed. Miss Mitchell is providing remediation instruction for many students in our computer lab in an effort to get their performance up to state standards. Students participating in our after-school program are also focusing on building their skills to be successful on this test. As a part of the state testing program, 5th grade will take the Alabama Science Assessment on April 6th. They will complete the annual 5th grade Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing on April 7th. The students have been working very hard in their language classes to prepare for this assessment by writing narrative, descriptive, and expository essays. Sixth grade students will complete a mock writing assessment on March 16th. This also will be scored by Florence City Schools' 7th grade language teachers. Please encourage your child to do their best, and have them at school on time, well rested and ready for this important

assessment. We should have the results of this assessment before school is out for the summer. These assessments are an important part of determining your child's progress in the area of writing.

The results of these tests are used by the school to help in evaluating our programs as well as to diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses, and to aid in appropriate placement of students. Parents and students may use the results to compare their achievement with other students locally and nationally. It is essential that students take testing very seriously and give their best efforts in order to get valid results. Please encourage your child to do their best on these tests and help us set high expectations for them to perform their best.

Also, a BIG CONGRATULATIONS to all of our National Junior Honor Society inductees who will be inducted on Thursday, February 25th. There will be 67 sixth grade students inducted based on academic achievement, character, and service. We are so proud of them and their accomplishments. Parental support and high expectations set the tone for these students. Parents of our current 5th graders need to encourage your child to set this as goal for next year. We will recognize potential National Junior Honor Society inductees at the Spring Awards Day program as members of Future Leaders of Hibbett

Finally, we are launching our spring public relations and recruitment campaign for enrollment at Hibbett for the 2010-11 school year. Our local 4th grade students will visit Hibbett on March 12th. We will also have a Parent and Community Preview Day on March 18th, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for all interested parents and community members. If you know parents with 4th graders, or those who currently attend private school, please encourage them to give Hibbett a long, hard look and see what we have to offer. We will be happy to meet with any of these prospective parents and students to talk with them and give them a tour on March 18th.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events: team events, Fun Day (May 14), Awards Day (May 20), and other spring programs. As always, I GREATLY appreciate your support as parents. Please let me know if we can help you in any way, and thank you for entrusting your child to Hibbett and the Florence City Schools.

--- Rose D. McGee, Principal

From the Art Room... POP ART from the art room will be on display along with other student works of art the night of our spring chorus program. We hope you will make plans to be there. Most recently art students have been involved with COLLAGE where we covered containers with overlapping pieces. If your child has had art you have seen a really neat WEAVING they did to use as a mug rug, or just for decoration. Also, SURREALISM really gave our young artists the opportunity to get creative and use their imagination in a new and unreal way. Currently the art room is full of PAPIER-MACHE' masks which are under production. We are adding layers every day. The art room is a wonderful change of pace in the day and a place to enjoy creative activities students would not otherwise get to do without the encore program at Hibbett.

******In every child, there is an artist.******

FALCON PRIDE

Social Studies- It takes all kinds of people to build a strong and prosperous country like the United States. People of all shapes, sizes, and colors have contributed to our way of life. African Americans have played an important role in our nation's history. Their hard work and unique talents have enriched our lives in entertainment, business, the arts and more. In Social Studies this February, students were introduced to African Americans who have accomplished great things and who continue to make a difference.

Math- Presently, the Pride Team is finishing chapter 8 (geometry) and will begin chapter 9, which consists of the metric system of measurements, area, perimeter and volume of several geometric figures. We are briskly moving along trying to complete our course of study objectives so we can begin reviewing for the SAT and ARMT spring tests. During our testing period, make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and rest. Good luck Pride mathematicians! You can blow the top off that test--you are capable.

Science- "Shake, Rattle and Roll" is the focus of study in science this nine weeks. Students are working with AMSTI kits and participating in activities that deal with catastrophic events. We will welcome a new student intern in March and discover many interesting "Mysteries of Science". Please be sure to have a science notebook to bring to class.

Reading- READ, READ, READ! Lots of interesting and exciting adventures take place in reading everyday! Please continue to encourage your child to READ on a daily basis! There is a direct connection between the amount of reading a child does and their academic performance! Don't forget those AR points either! They are due by March 15!

Language- Your students have been working hard on their writing and grammar skills in the past few weeks. As March approaches, we will focus on reviewing many of the language skills that will help your student succeed in life AND on the upcoming state assessments. Your students will also be asked to participate in several "public speaking" activities in front of their peers this spring.

Team information- Get your growing child an extra team shirt for the spring. The grey PRIDE s/s team shirts are on sale for \$5.00 per shirt. Sorry, we only have Large and X-large left!

Eagle Team

The Eagles are flying right along with work in all subjects. It is hard to believe we are already well into the 3rd 9 weeks of this school year. We have a lot of work ahead of us in the next few weeks. We will continue to learn new material and begin to review for the SAT coming up in April.

*Students have been as busy as bees learning how to use similes in their essay writing. They are reviewing the parts of speech as well. Remember to make sure your child does the Daily Language Review sheet for each day Monday through Thursday.

*Mrs. Baugh's Eagle scientists have been studying physical science. They have learned all about the properties of matter. They constructed posters on matter to represent what they learned. We are focusing on covering all the standards on the Alabama Science Assessment to be given in April. It is similar to the ARMT taken each spring.

*We are finishing a study of the New England Colonies. For the students who were assigned posters and Power Points on the Salem Witch Trials, these are due Monday. Next we will study the American Revolution.

*In math, students are studying fractions, decimals, and percents. They are using AMSTI lessons to experiment to find alternate ways to work problems. We are also reviewing for the testing week. Mrs. Yarber stresses the vocabulary notebook and showing all work on problems. Students are now reviewing for unit 4 math test. Parents should be receiving a study guide for this test. Next, the students will be working with measurement and geometry.

The year is passing quickly. Please encourage your child to make the best of each day for the rest of their 5th grade year. Also, continue to check those planners.

The Seahawk team is definitely ready for Spring! Enough snow and cold weather!! Everyone is working hard to get ready for the SAT, ARMT, AI Writing Assessment, and the BIG Science test coming in April. Since Writing Assessment have been moved to April with other tests, **Mrs. Cornelius** is combining writing skills with Language skills. Very soon, students will begin their poetry unit and notebook. The Gallon Man has invaded the Seahawk pod down by **Miss Franks'** room. Students have been learning about measurement and are about to begin Geometry. They have also learned songs that should help them remember liquid measurements a little better. The Revolutionary War is being fought in **Mrs. Thompson's** Social Studies classes. Students are enjoying studying the Patriots and Loyalists and the causes of the war. Students are also completing many in-class projects to better understand the events of the war. **Mr. Knox's Science** classes are still studying Microworlds. They are looking at concave and convex lenses and using microscopes to observe living and nonliving things. Our students really enjoyed the Mobile Ark with its many different animals. What a treat! Look for upcoming information about our spring field trip.

BIG NEWS!! The following students have met the eligibility requirements for membership into the Hibbett Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. A member must have and maintain an average of 90 or above in the five core subject areas. He/She must also have the qualities that indicate citizenship, character, service, and leadership. These students are:

Shelby Atwood, Emma Bagwell, Emma Barnes, Mike Beasley, Josh Berry, Gaige Bowling, Sydney Brook, Courtnee Cates, Autumn Clark, Bryant Claunch, Anna Conrad, D.J. Cook, Brianna Cooper, Nicholas Crenshaw, Ariel Cunningham, Lakien Dillard, Jacy Elkins, Alexandra Gardner, Sidney Gooch, Antonio Goodloe, Bailey Gough, Bronwyn Green, Logan Green, Nick Grigsby, Graham Hardison, Morgan Herfindahl, Natalin Ingle, Anthony Irons, Omar Jones, Sarah Kimbrell, Max Mao, Will Marlin, Ashley McCarley, Savannah Moses, Mollie Murphy, Madison Olive, Elizabeth Patterson, Ricky Pilger, Jeanette Pina, Lilli Redding, Mattie Reid, Gannen Rhodes, Joshua Riley, Griffin Rogers, Mitchell Rowland, Jack Rusevlyan, Baylee Sager, Samuel Salter, Leah Smith, Jackson Sneed, Rachel Stocksett, Kaitlyn Street, Ethan Sutherland, Collin Taylor, Erin Thompson, Melissa Tidwell, Albert Trousdale, Blair Varnell, Evins Wall, Kayleigh Wallace, Isabeau Warren, Davis Watkins, Brooke Williams, McKenzie Wilson, Jose Wooden, Matt Young, Tyler Young.

THE HAWKS TEAM is having a great year! We have enjoyed the snow, but we are really looking forward to spring! Language classes are fine tuning their writing skills to get ready for the Writing Assessment. They have worked very hard for several months. Students are expected to create a five-paragraph essay in 50 minutes!

In science, they are working on energy and microscopes. Thanks to our PTO, science classes enjoyed the "Mobile Ark", which brought animals to Hibbett on February 19th. The students really liked this activity!

In math classes, the Hawks are beginning a unit on geometry! This is always a favorite for most students! It's one of Mrs. Smith's favorites also! After geometry, they will begin their measurement unit.

In Mr. Joyce's classes, they are starting a unit on the Constitution. Parents, we encourage you to watch for opportunities to discuss our government with your child. Sit down and watch the news with your child or find articles in the newspaper together.

A BIG congratulations goes to one of our Hawks! Quinterious Hall was the Hibbett Spelling Bee Champion this year. We are proud of you, Quinterious!

Parents, please remember to check planners every day! Ask your child to go over their homework with you. Many students are coming to class without homework and needed supplies. With the ARMT and SAT10 just around the corner, we can't afford to slack off! Please encourage your children to do their very best!
--Hawks teachers

QUEST TEAM

Math: In Mr. Kennedy's classes, the Quest team is rolling along in math. We are about to finish measurement and go into the wonderful world of integers. We will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. We will also be graphing and applying integers. We will then go into probability-permutations-equations. We are in the process of reviewing for the upcoming state tests. During the last 9 weeks we will be involved in many hands-on activities to reinforce skills learned during the year.

Science: Mrs. Woods' students have been studying about energy. These lessons included learning how a roller coaster works. The students had the opportunity to design, draw and name their own roller coaster. They have also learned about simple machines and how these machines make our lives easier. The students became familiar with tools and everyday items and the simple machines which compose them. Next, the science classes will be studying catastrophic events. As a special treat, the PTO arranged for the Mobile Ark to visit the science classes. Students were able to see the animals up close and learn about them.

Social Studies: Mrs. Price's social studies classes have been very busy reviewing early American History and doing research for Black History month. Ask your students what new things they learned as they were doing their research. We will be continuing to review and prepare for the SAT test coming in March. In March we will welcome a student intern from UNA to our class. When we return from spring break we will study history from 1970 -2000. Thank you for all the help getting your student to complete homework. We are on the last stretch now.

Language Arts: Mrs. Herston wonders: how do adults ever find the strength to say no to students who are as persuasive as the Quest students? Our persuasive writing was a super success. Students were able to write letters that addressed their opinions and personal requests for changes in many different areas. We had letters written that requested a change in the dress code policy, letters that requested more comfortable chairs in the lunchroom and even one letter requesting that an ice-skating rink be added to the mall. Our off-grade level Writing Assessment will take place on March 16th and will include persuasive writing prompts. These sample writing tests will be sent to and scored by the 7th grade English teachers at FMS. Persuasive writing is the mode of writing that Alabama students begin to work with in the 6th grade and continue to use during Middle School and High School.

We are also beginning to prepare for the SAT and ARMT. For most students this is the time that they review and practice the "nitty gritty" of the English language. We have been using the computer software, "Brain Child", which was purchased by our school system to help prepare students for the type of questioning that will be used on the SAT and ARMT. All subject areas have sets of practice tests and lessons to help strengthen the students' test taking skills.

In our most recent Language classes we have finished our lessons on transitive and intransitive verbs as well as direct and indirect objects. We will move into linking verbs and tenses over the next few weeks. Thank you for all the support you are showing here at school and at home. The end of our "Quest" is fast approaching.

Reading: Mrs. Wallace's students are enjoying reading winter themed stories and completing activities that accompany them. Our reading has centered on the themes of snow, ice, Ground Hog's day, and Valentine's Day. Now we are reading on the theme of Black History. The general reading classes are reading a novel called *Circle of Gold* and the advanced reading class is reading *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*. We are also doing reading activities to learn more about the accomplishments of famous African Americans and their contributions to our country. We will be doing review and test prep during March and getting ready for the big testing days coming up soon.

MUSICAL NOTES: Our band students will soon have a wonderful opportunity for individual and group enrichment. On April 24 the Alabama Bandmasters Association Solo-Ensemble Festival will be held at UNA. All of our band members will have a chance to be a part of this. Students can perform a solo on their instrument or be a part of a small ensemble. They will play for a judge and be given a rating based on performance standards. In the past we have had many students play for this and earn superior ratings. Students earning superior ratings are awarded a medal for their accomplishment. Band members will get more information soon about entering this festival.

5th graders need to be thinking about the opportunity to join the band. We will have a time in May for the FHS Jazz band to come in and give a demonstration and performance to introduce you to the instruments. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for the Spring Concert. It will be on May 13 starting at 7:00 P.M. Hibbett will perform at the FMS/FFC auditorium along with the FMS bands.

The **Florence Falcon Orchestra** department is hosting a Dessert Cabaret on March 12 at 7:30pm in the FHS Commons Area. Details to come. On Saturday, March 13, there will be All You Can Eat pancakes at Applebee's Restaurant from 8:00-10:00. Tickets only \$5.00! Contact Mr. Jamieson for more info...256.768.2437 djamieson@fcs.k12.al.us

The **Chorus and Orff Ensemble** are working really hard learning their music for their Spring Program, "Gotta Be Jazz." We will present this to you the first week of May. The Orff Ensemble is also preparing for the 4th Grade Orientation. Our T-Shirts are here, so if your chorus students haven't brought their shirts home, they need to come by and pick them up.



News from the Assistant Principal:

Wow- the school year continues to move at an extremely fast pace. I can not believe we are almost in March. Hopefully this means that most of our sickness with students and issues with weather are about over. I do realize that our students and teachers have thoroughly enjoyed some of the “flex days” we have had recently.

I want to remind you that our state testing will begin in March. Our teachers and students are working extremely hard each day to prepare for this event and due to this I am requesting you make every effort to make sure your child is at school each day where they will be prepared to perform at their best level. If your children see that school attendance is important to you they will place the same importance on school.

We are extremely fortunate here at Hibbett to have so many extra-curricular activities and resources available. I have had several parents from other schools comment on the fact that they hear from many of our kids about clubs which they are involved and/or their experiences using state of the art technology. This is all part of the wonderful experience offered here at Hibbett. Many of these offerings and resources are due to fundraisers generated by our wonderful PTO officers-members and all of us are very appreciative of everything they do for our school.

Finally, I want to encourage you to stay connected and communicate with your child’s teachers in the coming weeks to be aware of any activities and events that may be taking place. In addition, please feel free to contact the office if we may be of service to you. In closing, thank you for allowing us the honor of educating your child each day and we hope we are exceeding your expectations. –Corey Behel

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS: The student council had a monthly meeting in February and voted on the spring service project, which will be PAWS and the Lauderdale Co. Animal Shelter. Students are encouraged to bring items to be donated to both groups by March 30th. Boxes will be set up in the hallway at the front entrance for the items. Thanks in advance for your help! The student council also voted on spring fling week activities and will be meeting with Dr. McGee to arrange the dress-up days for that week... Teacher appreciation week will be the first week of May and the council will have special snacks for teachers...more into will follow at the next meeting.

- Calendar of Events**
- Feb. 25 – NJHS Induction (8:30 a.m.)
Drama Night performance
 - Feb. 26 – Spring Pictures
 - Mar. 11 – End of 3rd 9 weeks
 - Mar. 11-16 – Hawks cookie sales
 - Mar. 12 – 4th grade orientation
 - Mar. 17 – Hawks cookie delivery
 - Mar. 18—Report cards
Box Tops running exemption—PE
 - Mar. 26—Box Tops running exemption—PE
 - Mar. 30-Apr. 9—SAT window
 - Apr. 9 – Hat Day
 - Apr. 13-17—Spring Break

**Hibbett Middle School
Newsletter
Florence City Schools
541 Riverview Dr.
Florence, AL 35630**

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Hibbett Middle School

Our mission is:

- To promote academic excellence**
- To develop respect for self and others**
- To accept and nurture cultural diversity**
- To provide for social and physical needs**