



Eagle News

March 5, 2024 - www.hfeeaglealliance.org

Dear Heards Ferry Families,

The mission of Heards Ferry is "To challenge and support all students to reach their highest potential." Did you know HFE is the home to 18 special needs educators, 15 therapists and is a magnet for speech services? When we say all, we mean ALL.

This week is Exceptional Children's Week, an annual event celebrating children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who serve them. The highlight of the week will be the "Yes I Can" awards on Thursday, where each exceptional student will be recognized for all the hard work they have put in this school year.

Sure to be in attendance at the ceremony are members of HFE's newest organization, the Best Buddies Club. Best Buddies encourages one to one relationships between students with intellectual and developmental delays and their peers. We can't wait to see the fruits of this awesome program!

We love learning with you!

[Brooke Brown](#)

Eagle Alliance Co-President

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Calendar Highlights

March

4-8 Exceptional Children's Week
4-15 College & Career Stations
8 School Tour
11-12 Teacher Workday/Professional Development
18-22 Staff Appreciation Week
19 Community Meeting with Katie Gregory

20 Sunshine Event - Pre-K/K
23 HFE Parent Party
26 College Spirit Day
27 IB Exhibition

April

1-5 Spring Break
9-11 Food Drive for CAC
10 Andy Griffiths Author Visit
12 Spirit Day
12 School Tour
18 Spring Chorus Concert

19 Braves Spirit Night
22 Earth Day
24 Volunteer Appreciation
26 New Student Roundup
30 College Spirit Day

College & Career Month - Mar 4-15

March is College & Career Awareness Month, presented by [Quest Orthodontics](#). All month, students will engage with content aimed at increasing their awareness of higher education and career paths. The Eagle Alliance is working with Mrs. Aronowitz to prepare several programs:



- Grades PreK - 2nd
 - Monday March 4 - Friday March 15: Class will visit imaginative play career centers. Parent volunteers will be needed per class, consider signing up [HERE](#).
 - Friday March 8: Careers on Wheels assembly in the morning.
- Grades 3rd - 5th
 - Classes will have volunteers come and speak about their personal career path. This will be coordinated through the room parents, so keep an eye out if you are interested in sharing your story!

A college display board featuring the staff's alma maters will be in the main hallway, take a look the next time you're at HFE to see if you have any alumni connections! Please visit the [College & Career Month S'more](#) for more info.

2023-2024 Yearbook

You can still purchase your yearbook if you have not done so yet! They are \$35 until April 1. Click [HERE](#) and use our school code 14991 when ordering.

If you have pictures from school events you'd like to share with the yearbook committee, you can submit them [HERE](#) using the school code HJ14991.



Staff Appreciation Week - Mar 18-22

This year's theme of "CAMP HFE: LET'S GO GLAMPING" will show our wonderful teachers and staff just how special they are! There are a variety of opportunities to participate in before and during this fun-filled week. We would love to have everyone's help in providing our staff with a top notch experience as they relax and unwind during their time at **Camp HFE**.

Our immediate needs for Camp can be found [HERE](#). Full details will be on the [EA website](#) as well as via communications from room parents. Whether you prefer to sign up to send in materials, take over morning carpool duty, purchase a Dream Lunch, or all of the above, your assistance is greatly appreciated! **We can't wait to spoil our staff with this week of glamping adventure!**

Thanks so much!

2024 Staff Appreciation Week Team

Alicia Henson, Anne-Ross Edwards, Lauri Gerson, Lindsey Barry, and Marisa Lee



HFE Parent Party - Mar 23

Please join us for the annual Parent Party presented by [Rebecca Feldstein](#) with Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's on Saturday, March 23, 2024! Guests can plan for a fun night of waging bets, mingling and raising money for HFE. EA Members can purchase tickets [HERE](#) and Non-EA Members can purchase tickets [HERE](#).

We're also looking for some volunteers to help the night of the event, sign up [HERE](#) if interested.



CAC Food Drive - Apr 9-11

CAC brings the community together to provide compassionate assistance to neighbors facing times of need who have nowhere else to turn for help. With the support of a community that cares, together we help prevent hunger locally.



Please bring in canned food items during carpool on April 9 - 11 to help our neighbors in need. A list of the desired items can be found [HERE](#).

Author Andy Griffiths Visit - Apr 10

**AUTHOR ANDY GRIFFITHS
WILL BE VISITING
HEARDS FERRY
2ND - 5TH GRADERS!
Wednesday, April 10**

**Order your signed copy by March 26
20% of sales support HFE!**

Andy and Terry live in a 169-story treehouse. (It used to be a 156-story treehouse, but they've added 13 more stories.) It now has a kangaroo-riding range, a WHATEVER-WEATHER-YOU-WANT dome and a hall of funhouse mirrors—the perfect place to hide from the truancy officer who is trying to catch them and make them go to school!

Unfortunately, the hall of funhouse mirrors is also the place where their evil trouble-making twins, Anti-Andy, Terrible Terry and Junkyard Jill live in a doppelgänger mirror, and they take advantage of the confusion to escape and wreak havoc in the treehouse.

Can Andy, Terry, and Jill escape school, save the treehouse from the doppelgänger mirror gang AND get their book written on time?


Andy and Terry live in a treehouse. But it's not just any old treehouse, it's the most amazing treehouse in the world! This treehouse has thirteen stories, a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, and a secret underground laboratory.

\$17

\$17

Click here to order!

*2nd- 5th grade will attend,
all students are welcome to order signed copies!



These books & more are available at www.littleshopofstories.com. Thank you for supporting your local bookstore!

HFE Atlanta Braves Night - Apr 19

Baseball is almost back! Mark your calendars for Friday, April 19th and buy your tickets for the upcoming Spirit Night at Truist Park, where the Atlanta Braves will take on the Texas Rangers. Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#), with a deadline of April 5th or until our allotment sells out.



Best Buddies Friendship Walk - Apr 20

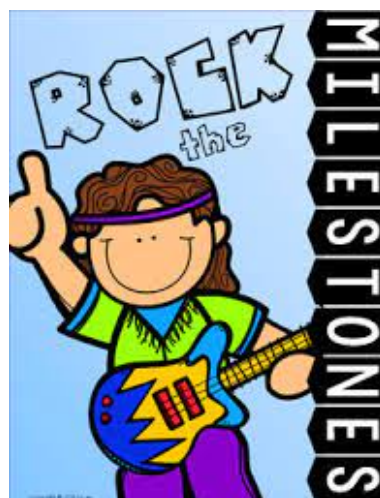


HFE is joining forces with Riverwood International Charter School for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk on Saturday, April 20th at Blackburn Park in Dunwoody. HFE invites anyone interested in joining our team. If you're interested in walking with us, please click [HERE](#) for more information and be sure to click "join team" to sign up. (Monetary donations are not required.)

Milestone Testing Dates

Milestone testing will take place in April and May. We will be testing from 8 to 11 am on the days below. Make ups will be in the afternoons. There is nothing you need to do to prepare your child other than make sure they get a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast!

- April 29 - ELA Section 1 Grades 3 & 5
- April 30 - ELA Section 2 Grades 3 & 5
- May 1 - ELA Section 3 Grades 3 & 5
- May 2- Math Section 1 Grade 4
- May 3- Math Section 2 Grade 4
- May 6 - Math Section 1 Grades 3 & 5
- May 7- Math Section 2 Grades 3 & 5
- May 8 -ELA Section 1 Grade 4
- May 9 - ELA Section 2 Grade 4
- May 9 -Science Section 1 & 2 Grade 5
- May 10 -ELA Section 3 Grade 4



Info for RCMS Rising 6th Graders



The 5th grade students will be visiting RCMS during school hours on March 21.

Principal Garrett will also host a morning meet & greet with parents of rising HFE 6th graders on March 22 from 8:00 -9:00 a.m in the HFE cafeteria.

There is still time to tour RCMS! All of this information can be accessed [HERE](#).

SGC Election Information

If you will have a child attending HFE for the next two school years, please consider joining the School Governance Council (SGC)! Our SGC plays a critical role in the success of our school by working with school leadership to determine the long-term direction of the school, designing innovative solutions to increase academic achievement, and serving as school ambassadors to the local community. If you are interested in running for a position on the SGC, please submit a [Declaration Form](#) before March 29th. If you would like more information about the charter system or SGC elections visit our school's SGC [website](#) or the FCS [Charter System Overview](#).

FCS Annual Parent Perception Survey

Fulton County Schools truly values the feedback from parents about their experiences with the district. [The Annual Perception Survey](#) allows parents the opportunity to tell FCS what they think about Heard's Ferry and the district. The survey is anonymous and confidential. Please complete one survey per school where you have one or more students enrolled. The survey will remain open until March 15.

Math Continuous Achievement Changes

Math Continuous Achievement levels will be changing during the 2024-2025 school year. Two informational sessions will be held on March 25th to discuss this change and will detail how the change impacts curriculum and instruction across all K-5 grade levels. Please let [Michaela Ferretti](#) know if you have any questions regarding the sessions:

- Lunch and Learn - 3/25, 12 - 1 pm at Heards Ferry
- Evening Session - 3/25, 7:15 - 8:15 pm via Teams. Join [HERE](#) via Teams.

Technology Reminders

Our network security team conducts regular checks to identify compromised devices, including those that may have been hacked or reset to factory settings. Resetting devices is a **severe breach** of our digital security protocols. This action bypasses the security and filtering settings that the district has implemented for the safety and security of our network. Engaging in such activities is classified as a Tier 3 offense under Rule 18h (Tamper/Phish/Hack District Network) of the Code of Conduct.



Remind your student to adhere to the Device User Agreement (page 73 in the 2023-2024 Code of Conduct [HERE](#)) when using school technology. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary actions. It is crucial that we work together to ensure the responsible use of our technology resources.

We encourage you to discuss this with your children and remind them of the importance of using technology appropriately. Your support in this matter is vital in maintaining a secure and conducive learning environment for all students.

In addition to Rule 18h of the Code of Conduct, this is also a reminder about cell phones and smart watches. Rule 18f.II states that the use of Personal Communication Devices (cell phones, smart watches, recording devices) is not allowed in grades Pk-5. If a student's personal communication device is confiscated by school personnel, it will only be released to the parent or guardian who must come to the school to retrieve the device.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Lori Dunagan](#).

IB Update from Ms. Yancey

[Please visit my smore page](#) to learn more about our IB program!



INTERNATIONAL INQUIRER PROGRAM:

During the month of March, students will continue to research their country of study, and begin planning for International Week, scheduled for the week of May 13th. Each class will create a mini-world project that is a symbol of their country of study and it will be on display in our media center during International Week! Each class will also begin preparing for their class presentations where they will share their research with another homeroom on their grade level!

As part of International Week, we are also beginning to prepare for our immersive experiences in our media center where students will “virtually” visit four different countries! This year our four countries are Cuba, China, Kenya, and Brazil! It will definitely prove to be a very exciting week, and we are so grateful for our Eagle Alliance Volunteers that help us provide this opportunity for our students!



COOKIES FOR CHARACTER:

The learner profile attribute for the month of March is Risk-Taker. Teachers will be looking for students who have consistently shown a willingness to try something new or a new approach to their learning.

S.O.A.R. Spotlight

Each month, we recognize members of our community who exemplify the S.O.A.R. qualities we seek to instill in our children. This month, we recognize the Best Buddies Club.

HFE recently received their accreditation as an official chapter of the Best Buddies program. The program is designed to offer students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) the opportunity to engage in inclusive activities that promote friendship, acceptance, and interaction. It is Best Buddies' hope that these opportunities will lead students to create more inclusive communities as they grow in life.

Best Buddies is led by our school counselor Mrs. A, our school psychologist Ms. Turano, and MI teacher Ms. Williams, and is made up of 30 founding members in 3rd-5th grades.

Rebecca Abdi, Case Ackerman, Henry Ahn, Madison Benifield, Natalie Benifield, Allison Camp, Ava Davis, Emma Dempsey, Harriet Edwards, Amelia Goldman, Yivonna Gomez-Childs, Lily Habif, Hadley Henson, Avi Holtzclaw, Abigail Johnson, Sydney Johnson, Dylan Kramer, Marley Mayes, Paris Mitchell, Camellia Moore, Gavin Perkins, Sloan Roberts, Theora Sockwell, Emme Spence, Julia Sugg, Daisy Tau, Collins Thome, Clara Wills, Cami Wright, Jack Velotta

The Heard's Ferry chapter of Best Buddies recently joined the Riverwood ICS Best Buddies chapter for a "Pal"entine's event, and a great time was had by all!



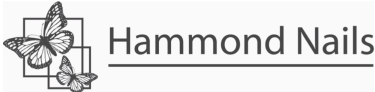


Many thanks to our *Partners In Education* for supporting HFE Eagle Alliance

Platinum Eagle



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Silver Eagle



The next edition of Eagle Alliance Newsletter is April 10. All article submissions are due March 27 and should be submitted to communications@hfeeaglealliance.org.