

Twister Times

2022 – 2023 School Year – December 1, 2022



Principal's Message

Administration

Mrs. Kim Lewis, Principal

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Mrs. Melissa Rourke, Assistant Principal

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Mrs. Molly Rood, Nurse

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Mrs. Amanda Schmidt, Psychologist

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Mrs. Rebecca McCarty, Social Worker

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Miss Paige Gilson, Social Worker

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Hello Twisters!

I hope all of you had a fantastic break last week and had a chance to relax with family and friends. We only have two and a half weeks left until winter break and as a school we are rallying together to help some HBT families through our annual Giving Tree initiative. **Be sure to see the information on page 3 regarding the Giving Tree and make the holiday season special for a HBT student.** Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

I also wanted to make HBT families aware of three things that the Student Advisory and Parent Advisory groups have been working on that will roll out in January.

1. **Parent Liaisons** – We are looking for families interested in being a liaison for new families moving into the district. By signing up, you are volunteering to be a support for the family during the transition, help them feel welcome, and answer any questions they may have. Families may be matched with a liaison based on the grade level of their students, the languages spoken in the home, or have the same bus stop. If you are interested in helping out, [please click HERE](#).
2. **School goal to track daily attendance** – Each day we will be tracking our student attendance rate and sharing it with students and staff via the morning announcements. A chart outside of the office will be used to display the data. After reviewing typical attendance data, we will set a goal for HBT to begin working towards in January and celebrate success along the way.
3. **Student Guides** – Student leaders in grades 2 – 5 will be assigned as Twister Guides. When a new student enrolls at HBT after January 9th they will be assigned a guide. The guide will give them a tour on the first day and review a few items but will spend the remainder of the week working through a checklist of items that are important for new students to be aware of. 5th graders will be used to assist Kinder and 1st graders.

Connect with us:

Phone: 847-464-6008

Fax: 847-464-6022

Website:

www.hbt.central301.net

Twitter: @KimLewis_301

Our goal is to help students and families feel welcome at HBT and encourage daily attendance so that all students have equal opportunity to be successful. If you have any questions, please contact the HBT office at 847-464-6008.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kim Lewis



Important Dates



DATE	EVENT	NOTES	TIME
Dec 13 th	Music Concert 2 nd grade Music Concert 3 rd Grade		6:00 – 6:30 7:00 – 7:30
Dec 21 st	Winter Classroom Parties		See below
Dec 21 st	End of Quarter 2		
Dec 22 – Jan 6, 2023	Winter Break		
Jan 9, 2023	School Resumes		
Jan 16 th	Martin Luther King Holiday	No School	
Jan 17 th	Quarter 2 Report Cards posted in Skyward		4:00 PM
Jan 17 th	BOE Board of Education Meeting at the District Office or view on YouTube		6:00 PM
Jan 19 th	PTO Meeting in the HBT Library		6:30 PM
Jan 24	5 th Grade Band Concert	CMS	
Jan 26 th	Student Picture Retake Day		9:00 – 1:00
Feb 20 th	Presidents' Day	No School	
Feb 28 th	Music Concert Kindergarten Music Concert 1 st Grade		6:00 – 6:30 7:00 – 7:30

Winter Holiday Parties:

Classroom volunteers have been selected for the winter parties and may arrive up to 15 minutes early to begin preparation. Volunteers will not be let into the classrooms any earlier than that as to not disrupt the learning.

The party times are listed below.

Early Education/Pre-School: 10:00 - 10:45 & 2:00 - 2:45

Kindergarten: 2:45 – 3:30

1st grade: 2:00 – 3:00

2nd grade: 1:30 - 2:30

3rd grade: 1:30 – 2:30

4th grade: 2:00 – 3:00

5th grade: 2:15 – 3:15

Student Picture Retake:

If your child was absent on Wednesday, October 12th or you are unhappy with your child's photograph, student picture retake day is Thursday, January 26, 2023.

Students who enrolled after Wednesday, October 12th will also have an opportunity to have their picture taken.

Digital Links:

- [Lunch Menu](#)
- [Digital Bulletin Board](#)
- [Student/Parent Handbook](#)
- [Parent Square](#)
- [District Calendar](#)



School Hours:

Early Childhood (3's)

- 8:30 am – 11:00 am

Early Childhood (4's)

- 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Kindergarten – 5th Grade:

- 9:15 am – 3:40 pm

PTO Information:

Dawn Conklin, President

Lisa Almgren, Secretary

Daren DeCore, Treasurer

[PTO Facebook Page](#)



HOWARD B. THOMAS
GRADE SCHOOL

News from the Nurse



Molly Rood, BSN RN
School Nurse
Howard B. Thomas Grade School
Office: 847-464-8002



Hello families,

I hope this finds you well. November was a busy month in the health office! RSV, influenza, ear infections... Oh my! We saw a sharp influx in fevers and coughs at school. We are truly hoping that December is a healthier month for all of us.

As a reminder, students with a fever cannot come to school until they are 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine. **If your student requires medicine to make it through the day, they should stay home from school.** If your student is coughing persistently, especially if they cannot properly cover their cough, they should stay home until their cough is improved. We ask that you monitor your child for symptoms of illness and keep them home if they are feeling unwell. Staying home when sick is the best way to prevent the spread of contagious illness!

I would also like to remind families with students in kindergarten and second grade about state required eye and dental exams. Kindergarteners are required to submit BOTH an eye exam and a dental exam. Second graders are required to submit a dental exam only. **If you have not already done this, please schedule an appointment during the upcoming holiday break!**

We appreciate your partnership in keeping HBT a healthy place to learn.



DID YOU KNOW?

Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade that are chronically absent are found to have more significant reading difficulties and poor attendance patterns in later years. One California study found that only 17 percent of students who were chronically absent in both kindergarten and first grade were reading proficiently in third grade, compared to 64 percent of those with good attendance.

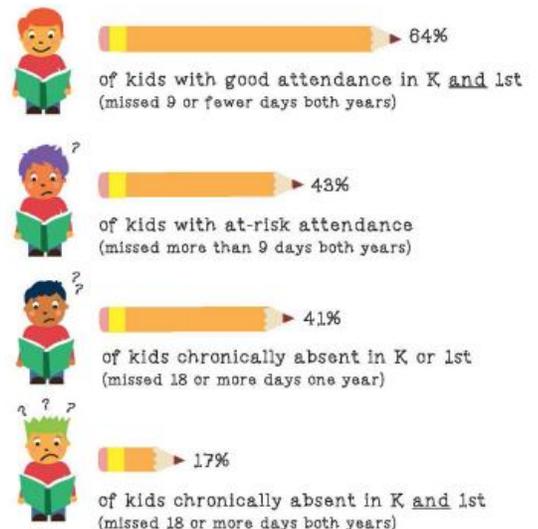
[Source](#)

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



HBT's Giving Tree:

In December the HBT staff puts up a Giving Tree in the vestibule and fills it with colorful mittens. Each mitten has a specific item to be purchased for an HBT student. This year has been difficult for many of our families, and our tree will be overflowing with mittens. By purchasing something for the students on the giving tree, you are giving back directly to HBT families.

Please email your child's teacher to indicate that your student has permission to get a mitten off the tree (please limit to three).

Please wrap the gift and securely attach the mitten and have the student place it under the tree by Thursday, December 16th, so families can arrange to pick up their gifts.

The Giving Tree will be up and available for mitten selection beginning on Friday, December 2nd.

³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarteners have been busy learning many new skills through our literacy program, Into Reading. Students have been learning about isolating and identifying the ending sound, reviewing rhyming, and learning about plural nouns. They have read stories about what it means to be a part of a community and the many communities they belong to. The Social Studies unit on Needs and Wants was integrated into this unit. Many stories were read that help students identify what is a need and what is a want as well as learning to appreciate what we already have. Kindergarten students have been working through our addition unit. Students have learned to use number bonds, number lines, tens frames and equations to solve addition problems and stories. Students have also used a lot of hands-on manipulatives like colored beans and chips to solve problems.

First Grade:

December is one of the busiest times of the year! In first grade, we worked on our 4th module for our new reading program, Into Reading. Each module takes about 3 weeks to complete. Students worked on MANY skills such as prepositions, point of view, digraphs and blends, how-to writing, and many more skills. Our students love how-to writing because it offers so many hands-on experiences! In class, we're encouraging students to use "first grade spelling" which means students independently write the sounds they hear in a word—also called phonetic spelling. This greatly develops students' ability to write independently. In social studies, we finished our unit on Then and Now which had students comparing how life used to be 200 years ago compared to today. We also learned about diversity and family traditions. We'll be looking at holidays around the world to finish the semester. We are working through Unit 2 for math which consists of true and false, the meaning of the equal sign, and real-world story problems. Students are rocking this unit so far!

2nd Grade:

Second graders explored a variety of strategies to use when adding and subtracting within 100. We also began tackling word problems, using bar models to help visualize the known and unknown parts of the problem. In social studies we enjoyed learning more about Veterans Day and sharing stories about family members who are veterans. The second graders participated in the Veterans Day assembly by reading a poem to honor our guests. The students also wrote thank you letters which got mailed to the veterans who were in attendance. Our reading time was filled with fairy tales and fables. We read literature from various cultures, learning more about the cultures as we read. We were also on the look-out for the lesson/moral of the fables that we read. We are transitioning from being word readers to thinking about what we read!

ELL:

EL students have been reading and talking about traditions within their families and comparing them to the American tradition of Thanksgiving. We have also talked about being thankful and reflected on things we are thankful for.

4th Grade:

The 4th grade had an opportunity to experience the Illinois prairie at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve. Students played a pioneer survival game, planted prairie grass seed, found coyote dens, and frolicked in the prairie on a lovely day! Students are learning about the different types of waves in science (water, light, sound and more)! Students will continue studying how waves transfer energy in our world. All of 4th grade is becoming accomplished at multiplication and division of large numbers. Our next math unit is moving into multi step word problems. In reading we are answering the question: what does it take to meet a challenge? across multiple genres. These fourth graders are awesome!



HOWARD B. THOMAS
GRADE SCHOOL



Curriculum

CORNER



5th Grade:

The highlight of 5th grade this month was our trip to the Challenger Learning Center. Students participated in a simulated space program. 5th graders conducted a mission to Mars, landed a rover, explored space artifacts along with many other activities. Our mission was a success!



5th graders focused on fractions in math this month. We looked at fractions as division, as well as adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. We'll continue multiplying and dividing fractions in December. 5th grade wrapped up their first social studies unit. We discussed the American Revolution and how the 13 colonies became a country! We have just started our second science unit, Earth's Place in the Universe. We will be discussing all things space! The kids are excited and can't wait to explore the great unknown! In ELA, we are studying the different elements that create a story such as genre, setting, characters, theme, and tone. We are taking the knowledge we have gained through our readings and applying it to our writing. Currently, we are writing a fictional narrative about a character that is on a journey to discover something.

Library & Reading:

Reading- The 2nd-5th grade students have learned all SIX syllable types in reading class. They are ready to break words into syllables and identify which syllable type it is. This is also going to help us figure out those longer words with many syllables. The 1st graders continue to work hard to figure out nonsense words and read books with short vowel patterns. It's awesome to see all the growth of our readers!

Art: Landscapes created by 2nd and 1st Grades and Kindergarten (including Foreground, Middleground and Background) Inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's "A Starry Night" and Monster Lands, All include Painted Paper and Cut Paper Art



Art: Sugar Skulls and Cardboard Challenge Creations created by 5th Grade



Art: Veterans Day Collages created by 3rd and 4th Graders. Using the Painted paper and collage techniques of famous painter Henri Matisse.



Music:

Kindergarten students completed their unit on the four voices this month (singing, speaking, calling, and whispering). Kindergarteners also discussed performers, conductors, and audiences this month. Students identified the qualities of a good performer and audience member. Kindergarteners celebrated Thanksgiving with songs like *Thank You* and *The Turkey Ran Away*.

First grade students began their unit on pitch using songs like *Bye Bye Baby-O*, *See-Saw*, and *Engine, Engine Number Nine*. Students played boomwhackers with the latter. First graders identified and demonstrated so and mi using both their voices and instruments. First graders also welcomed Thanksgiving with songs like *Run, Turkey, Run* and *Five Fat Turkeys*.

Fourth and fifth graders did a fantastic job at their concert on November 2! Both grade levels dove into their respective rhythm units this month and will soon be busy composing their own songs.



All HBT students sang *American Every Day* and the national anthem for our Veterans Day celebration on November 11.

Great job, Twisters!

Second and third grade students have been busy preparing for their concert on December 13. Please use the following link to access more information and/or order a DVD:

[Letter/DVD Form 2-3 Concert.](#)

Physical Education:

Physical Education here at HBT has been a blast. Students of all ages were introduced to the different events often found at a gymnastics meet. From making pyramids on the floor mats to practicing their balance through various individual, partner & group balances. It looked like Brookfield Zoo in HBT's gym as K-1 students practiced tons of animal walks. Some include Alligator crawl, gorilla walk, Kangaroo jump and crab walk. The pencil roll and egg roll were a big hit while partner stunts such as the toe to toe stand up, wheelbarrow and reverse double push up challenged all mini-Twisters! 2nd-5th graders practiced several balances and stunts while putting together their 5 favorites into a routine which will be showcased towards the end of the unit. GREAT JOB TWISTERS!

Family Fitness Fun: Try some of the gymnastics activities with your child.
See who can crab walk from one end of the house to the other!

Health:

2nd - 5th grade finished up their unit on recycling. They had great ideas on ways that they can recycle items they use on a regular basis. Here is a [link](#) to some online recycling games, activities, and information if your child would like to learn more about recycling.

Students have started their unit on nutrition. 2nd and 3rd graders are working learning the food groups and what foods belong in which group. 4th and 5th graders are learning the essential nutrients and how foods are high in protein, fat, or carbohydrates. Here is a [link](#) to the USDA nutrition kids' corner that you can use to talk with your child about healthy and unhealthy foods.

Family Health Idea: As a family create a meal that has all of the food groups.
Include a dairy, grain, fruit, vegetable, and protein.

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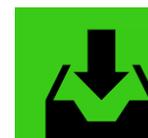
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