



January Newsletter from Principal Pauls....

January 31, 2024

Dear Parents,

Second semester has arrived! This school year is flying by. Please join me in celebrating the incredible talents and accomplishments of many of our MPE students listed below. You'll also find information in this newsletter about the Kids Heart Challenge, Cary Chamber of Commerce Honor-A-Teacher nominations, and End-of-Grade (EOG) dates.

Thank you to the Mills Park Elementary School community for coming together to support our Warm's the Heart families. The program was another big success. We have received many words of thanks from families who have appreciated having assistance to purchase clothing, shoes, socks, toys, and food for their families over the holiday weeks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Anne Pauls
Principal, Mills Park Elementary

Upcoming Events for February 2024

- Feb. 2: 2nd Quarter Report Card go home for all students (K-5)
- Feb. 2: Battle of the Books Practice, 8:00AM
- Feb. 5-9: Valentine's Day Candygram Sales (8:45 am)
 - (K & 1st: Feb. 5; 2nd & 3rd: Feb. 6-7; 4th & 5th: Feb. 8-9)
- Feb. 7: ECS Field Trip, Durham Museum of Life and Science
- Feb. 9: Battle of the Books Practice, 8:00AM
- Feb. 19-20: No School for Students
- Feb. 23: Battle of the Books Practice, 8:00AM
- Feb. 24: PTA: Health and Wellness Fair, 2:00 – 5:00PM
- Feb. 29: Spirit Night, Urban Air Morrisville, 4:00 – 8:00PM
- Feb. 26 – Mar. 1: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

[2023-2024 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)



Honor A Teacher Nominations

We are excited to be kicking off our 2024 Honor A Teacher season!

Excellence in teaching – We know it when we see it. It can be the teacher who spends extra time with the students who need it most, or the teacher who is creative enough to inspire a real love of learning in a student. Perhaps it's a teacher who cares enough to be involved with their students beyond the classroom. Whatever their methods, certain teachers make a real impact on students and their learning abilities.

We would like to recognize one such teacher and we need your help. The Cary Chamber of Commerce has been a leader in supporting education in our community through numerous programs and activities. One of the most critical needs of Wake County schools is that of attracting and retaining the best classroom teachers. With the Cary Chamber of Commerce's Honor a Teacher Program we hope to help our school system in meeting that challenge.

Building on the success of the Discovery Award first sponsored by the Ashworth family in 1991, followed by the Clara Knoll Award in 2000 by Barry and DJ Mitsch, the Cary Chamber has secured sponsors to develop a teaching awards program for all schools in the Cary Area.

We are asking our community to nominate teachers for this award. Included with your nomination, please describe why you feel this particular teacher deserves this award. Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, February 9th at 5:00 pm. These nominations will then be narrowed down to finalists that will complete an application process, will be judged by a designated committee, and announced at a ceremony on Tuesday, May 14th.

The nomination window will close on **February 9, 2024 at 5:00 pm**. Once the finalists are selected, the link to the application will be shared with the nominees, and due back two weeks later. No late applications will be accepted.

Here is the link to the nomination form: <https://forms.gle/Tp5wSgQyr9xh3toB7>

If you have any questions, please email Kelcey Ashworth, Vice President of Education & Member Business Services, at kashworth@carychamber.com.

Panther Pride

Kids Heart Challenge

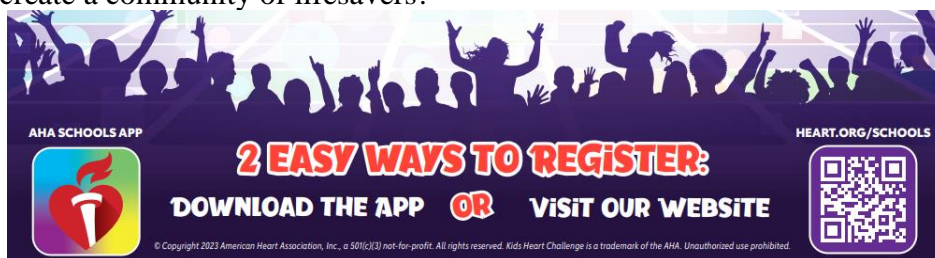


We are so excited about our school's American Heart Association **Kids Heart Challenge** kicking off in PE week of Feb. 5th- Feb. 27th! We are asking you to register for our Kids Heart Challenge team and help us reach our goal of 100% of our families learning the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR. Last year, [5-year-old Phil and his mother, Megan](#), saved a life because they watched the Hands-Only CPR video (part of Finn's Mission).

Get started today and be the first at our school to complete Finn's Mission!

- [Click Here to Register \(Search for Mills Park Elementary\)](#), or download the free "AHA Schools" app.
- **Complete Finn's Mission:** Watch the 2-minute Hands-Only CPR video featuring cardiac arrest survivor, Damar Hamlin, and watch a music video on the warning signs of a stroke (F.A.S.T.).
- **Share with Family & Friends:** Send messages via social media, text messages and/or email.

Help your class win the classroom challenge by registering and completing Finn's Mission. We can create a community of lifesavers!



End-of-Grade (EOG) Test Schedule

EOGs must be administered during the last ten days of school. Below is our tentative EOG test schedule. This could change based on updated guidance from the district or state.

- May 30, 2024: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Math
- June 3, 2024: EOG 5th Science EOG
- June 5, 2024: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Reading EOG
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Spelling Bee - School and Class Champions

Congratulations to **Architha Raghavan**, Ms. Moxley's 3rd grade class, for winning MPE's school spelling bee on Jan. 18th! Please join me in wishing Architha all the best at the district spelling bee on Feb. 7 at Ligon Middle School. I also want to congratulate all our classroom spelling bee winners:

Teacher Name	Grade	Student Name (First and Last)
Bernier	1st	Holmann Huang
Kellogg	1st	Ran Huang
Noble	1st	Shreya Bid
Riggsbee	1st	Anne Sebastian
Schindler	1st	Siddesh Ananthanarayan
Blatz	2nd	Elena Hu
Cupick	2nd	Janani Nachiappan
Dowell	2nd	Grace Jin
Hilliard	2nd	Nathan Li
Katzenberger	2nd	Megha Movva
Smith	2nd	Ishaan Neradugomma
McCann	3rd	Sambhav Pathak
Mihm	3rd	Josie Scherschel
Moxley	3rd	Architha Raghavan
Murawa	3rd	Amyra Minhas
Schreiber	3rd	William Zhu
Tawfik	3rd	Neil Zeng
Frazee	4th	Thara Mani
Howald	4th	Aiden Li
Johnson	4th	Sahana Anandakrishnan
Reichel	4th	Gowri Valora Neradugomma



Ware 4th **Matthew Liu**

McNamara 5th **Xinyue (Emily) Zhu**

Mohn 5th **Ian Lee**

Rochelle 5th **Alice Yeung**

White 5th **Tanya Srivastava**

Zhang 5th **Mya Elsenbary**

MPE Reflections Winners



Primary Division (PreK-2nd):

1st place - Aashvi Patwari (Literature category)
2nd place - Anne Sebastian (Visual Arts category)
3rd place - Krish Saxena (Visual Arts category)

Intermediate Division (3rd-5th):

1st place - Fiona Yao (Visual Arts category)
2nd place (tie) - Xiayi Zhu (Literature category)
2nd place (tie) - Akira Chauhan (Visual Arts category)
3rd place - Valora Neradugomma (Literature category)

Reflections Winners at Wake County level

We are happy to share that our MPE students mentioned below have won at the Wake County level in their respective divisions and categories and will be invited to join Wake County's Reflections Winners celebration in the spring of 2024. Those pieces designated '1st Place' and '2nd Place' on this list will move on to represent Wake County at the State Level.

Literature - Primary:

1st Place: Aashvi Patwari, 2nd Grade - A Hope Rainbow

Literature - Intermediate:

Honorable Mention: Xiayi Zhu, 5th Grade - The dream of nature

Music Composition - Intermediate:

2nd Place: Julia Alexandrov, 5th Grade - My Friends



Wake Pre-K Enrollment for the 2024-25 School Year:

Do you have a child who will be 4 years old by August 31st, 2024 and is a Wake County resident? If so, consider [applying for Wake Pre-K through the Universal Application](#). The Wake Pre-K application allows consideration for free, safe, and fun Pre-K program options.

Participating programs include NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K), WCPSS Title I, and Telamon Head Start. To learn more, visit the [Wake Pre-K Application Center](#).

Enrollment into the Wake County Public School System Title I Pre-K program is based on the academic need of the child. NC Pre-K and Head Start are prioritized for families with low incomes and other related eligibility requirements. When your application is processed, your child will be considered for the program that best matches your family based on the criteria. Applications are not first come, first served. **The deadline to apply is June 16.**

Does that sound like it may benefit your child? [Apply today!](#)

If you need additional support, please contact our school social worker at Mills Park Elementary:

Moira Conlon

mconlon@wcpss.net

919.466.1466, ext. 20774

919.414.3523 (cell)

*****Reminders*****

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-2025

If you have a child who will turn 5 years old by August 31, 2019, enrollment for Kindergarten has begun! Please click on the following link for enrollment details. [24-25 Enrollment Information](#)