



# Hawk Talk

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017

## Transportation Changes

Phenix City Elementary School

### Box Tops and Labels for Education

As we finish the holiday season, remember to clip those Box Tops for Education. You can find them on many products you use every day and for those special holiday treats. Hanes underwear, Kleenex, Hefty trash bags, Ziploc bags, Land O'Lakes products, and Green Giant fresh produce are just a few of the brands that support Box Tops for Education. Be a Box Top Hero . A continued thank you to all families, students, and staff who continue to bring in the Box Tops & Labels for Education. We are continuing to raise money for our school. Our next submission is March 1st. Keep those labels coming!



### STRICT POLICY

Due to the fact that we have an exceptionally large number of children going to different destinations at the end of the day, it is important for the children's safety that we all adhere to our School District's guidelines. If your child will be going on another bus or has changes in their afternoon pick up we can not accept those changes over the phone. You may send a written note with your child that must be dated and signed with contact information. Parents/ guardians may also come in the school with a picture ID to change



### Student Attendance

Regular student attendance is essential to the education process. School systems are required to monitor attendance and report students who are truant to an appropriate agency. In order to assist the District requirements, with a minimum disruption to the educational programs, we ask that you help us by doing the following: Please send your child to school by 8:00 am. If you know ahead of time that your child will be

absent from school, and please send a doctors note to the office. If your family will be away on a trip, please let the teacher and office know, in writing, at least one week in advance. Communication about attendance issues is valuable. A full copy of the Board's policy regulation is available on the school system website at: [www.pcboc.net](http://www.pcboc.net).

### "A Decade of Dreams" PCES Black History Concert

On Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00pm, PCES will put on a school musical, entitled "A Decade of Dreams!" Songs for Peace and Harmony will be sung by all of our students to recognize Black History Month. We can't wait for you to join us!



## Calendar of Events

### January

16th: MLK Holiday

NO SCHOOL

18th - 19th: Vision & Hearing Screening   
K, 2nd, & 4th Grades

23rd: 100th Day of School 

24th, 25th, 26th: Honor Roll Awards Ceremonies

Watch your child's folder for times!!



28th: Heart of the Community Awards

CHS Auditorium 

### February

8th: All A Field Trip to Oxbow Meadows 

9th: All A/B Movie Celebration 

14th: Valentine's Day 

15th: Spring Pictures 

20th: Presidents' Day Holiday

NO SCHOOL



## Dressing for the Weather

Now that the weather is changing and temperatures are dropping, dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for PE, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and

exercise. Please be sure your child has a winter coat, gloves or mittens and hat. For your child's comfort please make sure they have on dry socks when it is wet on the ground. Thank you for your extra effort!



## Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Martin Luther King Jr.** (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and around the world, using non-violent methods following the teachings of Mahatma Ghandi. King has become a national icon in the history of modern American liberalism.



# 100 Days of School

On January 23rd Kindergarten students will celebrate 100 days of school with a special in class activity. Watch your child's folder for more information!!



## Tardies at PCES

Students at PCES are averaging over 50 tardies a day for the 2016-2017 school year. This is a huge problem for students, as the amount of lost instruction time adds up quickly.

If your student arrives at school at 8:20 every morning, they miss 18 hours and 20 minutes of instruction. While 20 minutes may not seem like too much time each day, the total amount of time is very costly for students.



In the next couple of weeks, letters will be going out to parents to let them know exactly how much instructional time their students have missed. Please do your best to have your child in class by 8:00 everyday!

## Yearbooks on Sale!!

The 2016-2017 yearbooks are on sale now. Order your student's yearbook for **ONLY \$23!!**

Our 2016-2017 yearbook will be all color and hold lots of exciting photos from this school year. Students who order a yearbook will also be invited to the end of the year signing party. Make sure your child doesn't miss out on this year's memories!



## Car Giveaway

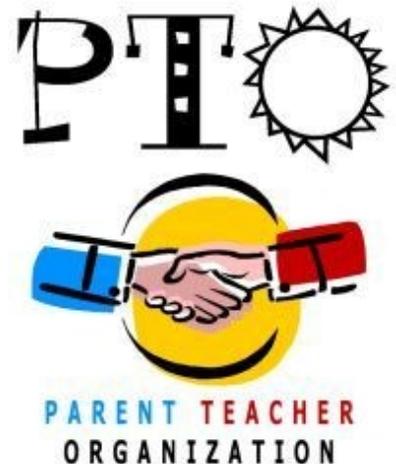
For just \$10, you can buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win a new car! The car, donated by Gil's Auto Sales, is a 2011 Silver Hyundai Sonata. Drawing will be held at the 16th annual Heart of the Community Awards on January 28, 2017. You will not have to be present to win. To purchase a ticket, please send money with your student to pay his/her teacher, or stop by the school office.

Good luck!!

## Thank You!!!

Thank you to our parents who volunteer and help with so many projects during these busy school days. The generous gift of your time and energy is greatly appreciated.

And, of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year –  
President: **Veronica Walker**  
Vice-President: **Serena Smith**  
Secretary: **Monique Gaines-Harris**



## Ask a Reading Specialist:

Dear Mrs. Howard,

My second grader is having trouble telling me about what he has read and he gets frustrated when I ask him about it. What should I do?

Sincerely, Perplexed Parent

Dear Perplexed Parent,

That's a great question. Start by checking to see if he is able to read the book accurately and independently. He should be able to successfully read at least 96% of the words on the page. If he can't, it is likely that there are too many challenging words in the text to properly make sense of it. He can hold onto the challenging book for the two of you to read together at bedtime. If he is able to read the book aloud successfully, you could talk about how reading is thinking.

Here are a few suggestions for building comprehension:

- Before reading, preview the book – What is the title? What is illustrated on the cover? Read the blurb about the book on the back of the book or book jacket.
- While reading, stop every few pages and think about, share, or write about what was just read.
- After finishing the book, talk about whether or not your son liked the book and why. There are many other elements to comprehension that are both literal (right there in the text) and inferential (figured out using clues from the text and background knowledge).

What I described above are just a few ways you can build comprehension skills while enjoying a good book! Another suggestion to build comprehension is to read a book together and model your thinking by “thinking aloud.” For example, while reading *Small Pig* by Arnold Lobel, you might stop a few times and predict, ask a question about the story, or re-read to figure out something confusing. You might say something like, “Mmm, I think the Small Pig is going to get stuck in the cement! I think the farmer and his wife will come to rescue him. Let's see if that is what happens.” Most importantly, make reading experiences with your son as positive and enjoyable as you can so that he will want to read and love to read!

What are your burning questions about reading? Please let me know! Email your questions to me or send a note into school and I'll reply to you directly or answer your question in the newsletter, (no names attached).

Kelly Howard, Reading Specialist

khoward@pcboe.net

## Help Us Help Others

**January 15 to February 12: House of Restoration** is a shelter for people who have no place to stay and they need our help! A lot of people are coming in because of cold weather. Here is a bunch of things that you can bring in. Thank you for your help!

### Kindergarten

Women's White Socks

### 2nd Grade

Men's White Socks

### 4th Grade

Shampoo

### 1st Grade

Hot Chocolate

### 3rd Grade

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper

### 5th Grade

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste