

### HASSAYAMPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL-PARENT CONNECTION

CARISSA HERSHKOWITZ  
PRINCIPAL



#### Welcome to the new school year!

This is the first newsletter of the 2021-2022 school year. The *Coyote Den* is your guide to all the great things happening at Hassayampa! Please make sure the school has your correct email address so the *Coyote Den* and other important school information will reach you each month. If you have any questions about items in the *Coyote Den*, please contact your child's teacher or the school office at (928)684-6750.

For additional school information, please refer to the Parent-Student Handbook, visit the Hassayampa website – [www.wickenburgschools.org/HES](http://www.wickenburgschools.org/HES), and “like” us on our school Facebook page.

Hello Hassayampa Families:

#### A Note from Mrs. Hershkovitz

As I prepare for this new school year, I reflect on the experiences of the past year. What a journey! My hopes for this coming year are optimistic. Hassayampa staff, both new and veteran, are excited to get the year started and look forward to seeing everyone once again!

Please help me welcome the following staff members to the Hassayampa family and Wickenburg community:

- ❖ *Lacie Schuster in 5th grade;*
- ❖ *Vicki Trenary and Molly MacNeil are the new 3rd grade team;*
- ❖ *Sarah Gonzalez in Kindergarten;*
- ❖ *Gwen Tenney is the new Instructional Coach.*

Welcoming back to our teaching staff this year are Gayle Peffers as our Reading Interventionist, Robin Hilbert in 4th grade and BJ Davidson in Art. This year, we are especially thankful for all of our returning teachers and staff. Last year tested everyone's resolve!

I hope that you and your family are doing well and continuing to stay healthy. We are grateful to continue to have our school doors open for in-person schooling. The district mitigation plan has been posted on the district website. Although recommended, masks are optional. We will continue to sanitize high contact areas and encourage hand washing. Your support is greatly appreciated!

It was wonderful to see many of you at our Open House event on July 29! Teachers enjoyed meeting you and sharing their beginning of year excitement. For those of you who have completed your enrollment verification through ParentVUE, thank you! There are a few documents that will be sent home on Monday that require your signatures. Please help us by getting this signed and returned quickly. Although food services are free for everyone this school year, families are still encouraged to complete the application.

Please know that staff at Hassayampa work very hard, every day, to create a rigorous and challenging curriculum as well as a positive and welcoming school climate for students. We want to make strong connections with students, offer them an engaging curriculum, and help them develop and grow into responsible and respectful citizens. Not a day goes by when we are not reflecting on how we can improve as a school. With that said, please also know the great importance that you play in your role as the parent. You have the greatest impact on your child's school performance. As partners in your child's education, you will be doing your part to keep in-tune with everything going on at school and to get to know your child's teacher well.

Best wishes for an incredible school year,

*Mrs. Hershkovitz*



**COMMUNICATION**

Communication is essential! We encourage all parents to reach out to their child’s teacher with questions and concerns as we continue to strive for academic excellence. You will find teachers’ email addresses on our school website. Many families enjoy the convenience of using Class Dojo for communication as well. Keep in mind that Class Dojo doesn’t necessarily alert the teacher when a message has come through. If there is a delay in communication, please contact the teacher through the school email.

Many of you used the Class Dojo app last year and LOVED it! Class Dojo is a simple app that allows students to earn points throughout the day for having excellent behavior. As the parent, you can have a quick glimpse on how your child’s day went. Teachers may also share pictures from the class; you may even see some announcements from Ms. KP or myself.

**Calendar of Events**

August 2 – First Day of School  
– BooHoo Breakfast

August 9 – Benchmark Testing Begins

Sept. 1 – Principal’s Coffee @ 8:15  
– Site Council @ 3:30

Sept. 6 – No School – Labor Day

Sept. 7 – Picture Day

Sept. 9 – Grandparents Luncheon

Oct. 7 – End of Quarter



**ATTENDANCE**

**ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**  
read well by the end of third grade



**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**  
pass important courses



**HIGH SCHOOLERS**  
stay on track for graduation



**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
earn their degrees



**WORKERS**  
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences - excused or unexcused - can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year - that's just 15 days at Hassayampa.



Being in school every day means your child won’t miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If your child asks to stay home “just because” simply remind them of what they will miss, such as reading, specials classes, recess and friends. Help your child understand that being sick is the only reason to stay home. Of course, under our current COVID situation, it is very important for students to stay home when they are truly sick. Please call the front office if your child will be absent.

**Students must be 24 hours fever free before returning to school.**

**STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS**  
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

**Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**





[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# READING AND MATH NOOK

## Read

Let's start the year off right! Reading is a vital part of elementary school life. **Build the love for reading in your child today!**

### Accelerated Reader

Every year, Hassayampa students do a lot of reading. Last year, third grader Carlos Benitez Padillo read over a million words! Our top readers are recognized at the end of the year and will have their names added on the Million Word wall above the library doors.

Please check out the Hassayampa school website to see a real-time display of how many AR books Hassayampa students have read this month!  
<http://www.hassayampa.wickenburgschools.org>

### The Hassayampa Bike Giveaway!

Knowing basic math facts is a skill that supports students for a lifetime! In class students will practice these skills daily. Practicing at home is highly encouraged!

Students have an opportunity to earn an entry ticket each time they pass their grade level Math Fact Fluency benchmarks given in October, December, March, and May.

## HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads	A student who reads	A student who reads
20:00	5:00	1:00
minutes per day	minutes per day	minute per day
will be exposed to <b>1.8 MILLION</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>90th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests	will be exposed to <b>282,000</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>50th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests	will be exposed to <b>8,000</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>10th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

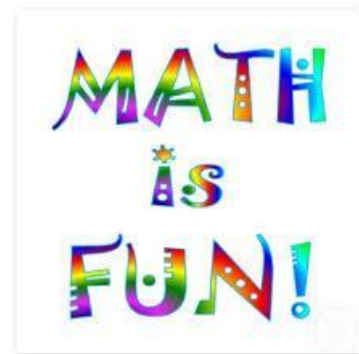


### Math Fact Fluency Goals

- Kinder** - Count and identify #'s to 100
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** - addition & subtraction facts within 10
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** - addition & subtraction facts within 20
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - addition & subtraction facts and multiplication facts within 12
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - addition, subtraction & multiplication facts and division facts within 12
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - addition, subtraction, multiplication, & division facts and fractions/decimals/percent

The drawing for the bikes will take place in May. We had four winners last spring who won brand new bikes: Eli, Jaxton, Mary Cruz, and Damian! Congratulations! This year it could be YOU!

Encourage your child to  
LEARN MATH FACTS and  
EARN A CHANCE TO WIN A BIKE!



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

## Parent Article

### Needs...

#### Contact Mrs. K-P

- School Supplies
- Emergency Clothing
- Weekly Food Bags

Call 928-668-5308

### Weekend Food Bags

A special thank you goes to our local Elks Lodge, The Green Bag Project, and St. Alban's Church. These local organizations will be providing weekend food bags for any family in need. Information and sign-up sheet are available, please contact Ms. K-P if you would like your child added to the list.

### Groups with Mrs. K-P

I will be working with weekly with groups of students who have suffered socially or emotionally through this pandemic. If you feel your child has experienced trauma or is just struggling with all the changes that have occurred, please contact me.

*"The time is always right to do what is right."*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Mental Health First Aid: Tips for Transitioning to the New Normal (MHFA Monthly, June 30, 2021)

As we transition into the new normal, remember to keep mental and physical health as a top priority. It's perfectly OK to take a step back, go at your own pace or set boundaries as things begin to change. Here are some tips to help you take care of your mental health as we ease back in:

1. **Give yourself some grace:** It's OK if you find yourself feeling a bit anxious about COVID-19 restrictions loosening. You may have days where it feels easier than others. Whether you're overjoyed, reluctant or both, your feelings are valid, and you can adjust at your own pace.
2. **Focus on what you can control:** You may not be able to control the restrictions in your state, but you can control where you go and how you protect yourself and your mental health.
3. **Set a new routine:** Some aspects of your life may have changed in the last year — and you can expect more change as we move forward. Try creating a new routine to help you ease into the change.
4. **Create healthy boundaries:** We have all experienced a range of emotions over the last year, and this transition will be different for everyone. Focus on what you are comfortable with and what will be best for your mental health. It's OK to set boundaries with friends, family and colleagues if you're feeling overwhelmed or anxious.
5. **Do activities you enjoy:** We've all missed some activities over the past year, so to help ease into this transition, you can start to think about doing the things you haven't been able to do. It's important to remember, you only have to do activities you're comfortable with – don't jump back into things too quickly.

### Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Character Counts!

This year, as part of our "specials" rotation, I will be teaching SEL as well as Character Counts! Every other week, during the scheduled Library time, your child will have a 30 minute in person or virtual lesson with the counselor. The focus of these lessons will be teaching students skills such as self-regulation, persistence, empathy, self-awareness, and mindfulness.

Don't worry, there will still be time for your child to check out library books.

Warm Wishes,  
**Mrs. K-P**