

FALL 2023

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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 **HENRY**
COUNTY SCHOOLS

 **EARLY
LEARNING**



FALL EDITION

As the leaves begin to change and the air gets cooler, it's the perfect time to explore a world of creativity, discovery, and growth for our youngest learners. In this edition of the Early Learning Newsletter, you will find fall literacy and STEM activities, literacy activities for one-year-olds, and so much more!

Spotlight Strategy: Reading rhyming books with your child helps their language development and early reading skills!

#MORECELEBRATING IN EARLY LEARNING!



Georgia Pre-K Week

was a huge success! Students learned about community helpers, participated in fun activities, and even had special visitors come read.



SCHOOL PROFILES

Do you want to learn about the learning, growing, and celebrating happening in our elementary, middle, high, and specialty schools?

Visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/151164> to view each site's school profile. Every profile on our website showcases the unique highlights and information that makes each school within Henry County Schools a truly exceptional and inspiring place to learn!

SPOTLIGHT ON FALL LITERACY

There are so many ways to get involved in literacy in our community. Find fun fall books at your local library, and while you're there, check out their amazing programs for young readers. You may even find a book written by a local author!

HENRY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Find YOUR local library branch:

- **Fairview Public Library:** 28 Austin Rd., Stockbridge
- **Cochran Public Library:** 174 Burke St., Stockbridge
- **McDonough Public Library:** 1001 Florence McGarity Blvd., McDonough
- **Locust Grove Public Library:** 115 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Locust Grove
- **Fortson Public Library:** 61 McDonough St., Hampton

WHILE YOU'RE THERE...

Check out their amazing programs!

- Toddler Tales Storytime
- Baby Lap-Sit
- Children's Storytime
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPOTLIGHT ON FALL LITERACY

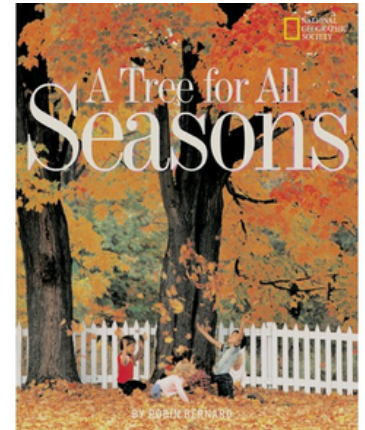
Check out some of our favorite fall books!



We're Going On a Leaf Hunt

by Steve Metzger

Your child will love following three friends as they have a big adventure. Encourage them to copy you as you read the silly sounds aloud.



A Tree for All Seasons

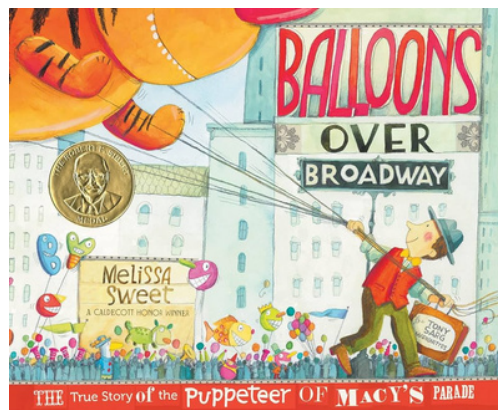
by Robin Bernard

This informational book answers questions about how trees work and seasons change. Challenge your child to notice similar trees in their environment!

Balloons Over Broadway

by Melissa Sweet

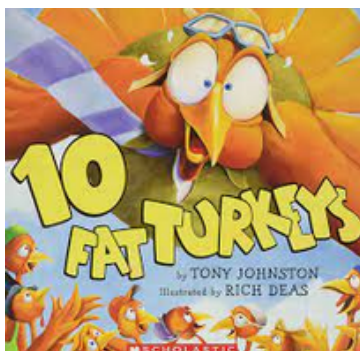
Even very young readers will enjoy looking at the colorful illustrations that tell the true story of the first Macy's Day Parade.



10 Fat Turkeys

by Tony Johnston

Children will enjoy the silly story and can practice counting while reading this book!



I Got The School Spirit

by Connie Schofield-Morrison

This **local author** tells the fun story of a girl going to school. Your child will enjoy the rhyme and rhythm in the story.

1-YEAR-OLD MILESTONES

The Center for Disease Control has created checklists to track developmental milestones for newborns through age 5. These milestones represent accomplishments that are typically achieved by the majority of children (75% or more) at a specific age. By the conclusion of your child's first year, they should ideally exhibit the following capabilities:

- Plays games with you, like pat-a-cake
- Waves bye
- Calls parent "mama", "dada", or another special name
- Puts something in a container, like a block into a cup
- Pulls up to stand
- Walks or "cruises" while holding on to furniture
- Drinks from a cup without a lid, while you hold it
- Picks things up between thumb and forefinger

You are your child's first teacher and you know them better than anyone else. If your child is not meeting identified milestones, it is important to act early and to discuss any issues with their pediatrician. For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control's Milestones website at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html> or scan the QR code!



You can also download a free Milestones Tracker app on your iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish.



Consider Literacy Activities with your 1-Year-Old!

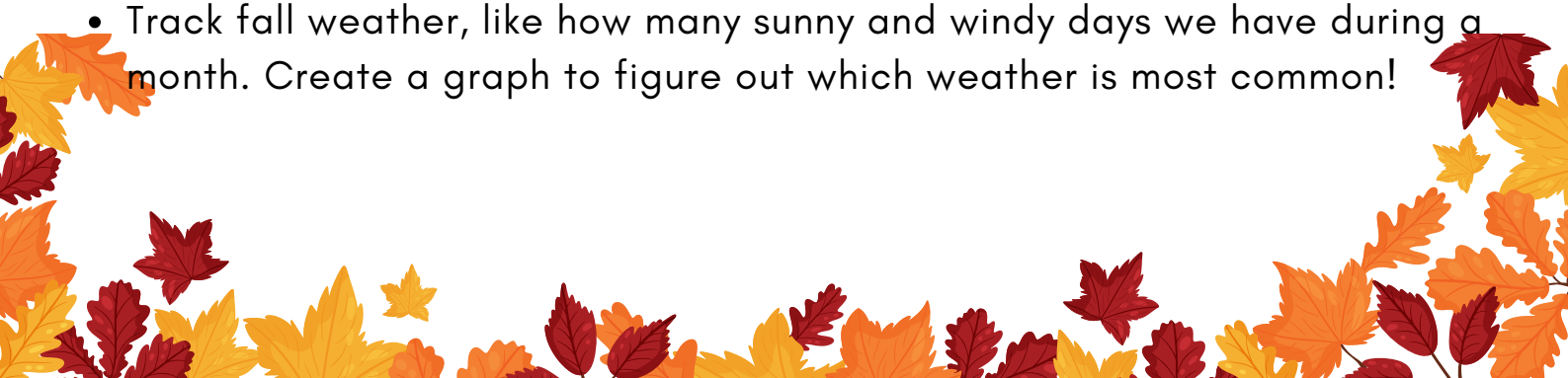
- Narrate your activities throughout the day
- Read aloud to your child
- Use your child's name often in conversation
- Encourage your child to mimic sounds they hear
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs with your child

FALLING IN LOVE WITH STEM!

Engaging in STEM activities at an early age fosters children's natural curiosity through active exploration. STEM also promotes analytical and critical thinking skills and encourages a love of learning!

Consider these fun fall STEM activities:

- Have your child stack whole apples, and then count how many apples they used. Use household materials like string, straws, pencils, or tape to engineer an even taller tower. Can they build a pyramid? What about a house? Once you are done, use the apples to make applesauce or baked apple treats!
- Go on a nature walk to collect leaves. Count how many you found. How many points are on each one? Have your child create a pattern with the leaves, such as red-red-green-green.
- Explore motion with pumpkin rolling! Use old cardboard to construct simple ramps, and experiment rolling pumpkins down the ramp. Challenge your child to engineer a way to keep the pumpkin on the ramp without letting it roll.
- Activate your child's senses by conducting an apple taste test. Ask them what they see, smell, and feel before finally allowing them to taste. To extend, have your child predict the differences in flavor between red, green, and yellow apples and then try them to test their predictions.
- Track fall weather, like how many sunny and windy days we have during a month. Create a graph to figure out which weather is most common!



HCS EVENTS

Dec. 20th: Early Release Day
Dec. 21st- Jan. 5th: Winter Break
Jan. 8th: First Day of the Semester
Jan. 15th: No School, MLK Day
Feb. 19-23: February Break



COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Henry County Schools - <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/>



Henry County Library System - <https://henrylibraries.org/>



Henry County Parks and Recreation -

<https://www.henrycountyga.gov/309/Parks-Recreation>



Ferst Readers - <https://ferstreaders.org/>



Bright from the Start - <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/>



CDC Developmental Milestones -

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>



Department of Public Health -

<https://www.district4health.org/locations/henry-county/>



Henry County Schools is In Pursuit of *Exceptional*

TAKING ACTION TO ADVANCE

OPPORTUNITIES | ACCESS | OUTCOMES

IN PURSUIT OF

AMBITIOUS GOALS

Imagine a day...

...when every student has access to a supported Pre-K program;

...when every elementary school has a robotics & coding program and a STEM lab;

...when every student has taken a band, orchestra, or chorus class;

...when every student has exposure to a world language program before they enter middle school;

...when every middle schooler has access to a computer science course or engineering pathway;

...when every middle schooler performs in the theater or learns to design the sets on computer software;

...when high school students choose HCS specifically for the Arts Education program;

...when every student develops financial literacy;

...when high school is the launching pad to post-secondary education and stable employment...

When *Every* student...

...is reading at the appropriate level or above and when they are not, we have a clear plan to get them what they need...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* support.

...learns in a nurturing and supportive environment that fosters student health and well-being...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* access.

...graduates with college credit, industry certification, or work-based learning experience and has a solid post-graduation plan...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* futures.

...no exceptions, just

Exceptional



**HENRY
COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Community-Inspired
2021-2026 Strategic Plan

Developed by the Henry County Board of Education

For more information visit: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/128814>

(HCS 2021-2026 Strategic Plan-1P.5.11.21.v1.7)

Henry County Board of Education | Holly Cobb (D3), Annette Edwards (D5), Dr. Pam Nutt (D1), Makenzie McDaniel (D2), Sophe Pope (D4)

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Our award-winning Henry County Board of Education is comprised of five members. Pictured from left to right are Pam Nutt (District 1 Representative), Sophe Pope (District 4 Representative and Vice Chair), Annette Edwards (District 2 Representative and Chair), Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis, Holly Cobb (District 3 Representative), and Makenzie McDaniel (District 5 Representative). Board members are elected by the citizens of Henry County to a four-year term of service. The Board meets at least once a month. Remaining meetings for the 2023-2024 school year are scheduled on:

December 11

January 8

February 12

March 11

April 15

May 13

Each meeting date has a Study Session at 4:00 p.m. and a Business Session at 7:00 p.m. The general public is invited to attend all meetings and can also stream each meeting at home.

For more information about the Board of Education Governance Team, visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/9>

For more information on Board of Education meetings, visit: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/8>