



# Harris Park Herald

Happy lifelong learners. Positive and passionate in every way.  
[www.harr.westminsterpublicschools.org](http://www.harr.westminsterpublicschools.org)

Phone: 303-428-1721

February and March, 2019



Dear Harris Park Families,

Spring is quickly approaching, and there is no better time to work on leveling up! Thank you for encouraging your child in their nightly goal work. Every student should be completing daily goal work: reading and practicing their math facts nightly. Try to read with your child every day. Reading for ten to fifteen minutes prior to bedtime is a peaceful and joyful way to end the day. You could also bring a book to a sibling's sport practice, or curl up together on the couch when you get home from work. Here are a few ideas for helping your child learn to love to read: take turns reading, ask questions about what you read, ask your child what they think is going to happen next, use different voices for different characters, and remember to show your child how fun reading is!

Our 3rd through 5th grade students will begin their standardized state tests in English Language Arts and Math after spring break. 5th graders will also test in science, and 4th graders in Social Studies. Students will take three separate assessments for each of the content areas. Please help your child maximize their success on these tests by ensuring they are getting a good night sleep, and by supporting and encouraging them to do their personal best. This year, students who attend every testing day, on time, and who give their best personal effort on each test will earn a trip to Elvis Movie theater to watch a movie.

Preparations are well under way for the 2019-2020 school year! Online Registration is now open. Parents and Guardians can go to [olr.westminsterpublicschools.org](http://olr.westminsterpublicschools.org) to register. Click on Existing Family and you will be taken to the Parent Portal Account login page. If you have forgotten your login information, please contact the school for assistance. We would like to have every family complete the registration process by March 1st.

With Love,

## February

- 1 No School
- 6 PTA / BAAC meeting 3:15-4:00 pm
- 12 Registration Help 3:30 - 6:00
- 15 No Preschool
- 18 No School, Presidents' Day
- 21 Level 4/5 Music Performance 5:00-6:00  
Panda Express Fundraiser Night 4:00-9:00 pm
- 26 Registration Help 3:30 - 6:00
- 28 Family Potluck Hosted by Title 5:00-6:15

## March

- 1 No School
- 6 PTA / BAAC meeting 3:15-4:00 pm
- 21 Level Kinder Music Performance 5:00-6:00  
Preschool-Kinder Open House 4:00 - 5:00  
Registration Help 3:30 - 5:00
- 25-29 No School, Spring Break

## April

- 3 Picture Day, PTA/BAAC meeting 3:15-4:00 pm
- 5 NO SCHOOL
- 9 CMAS Testing Begins
- 18 Kinder Field Trip
- 19 Preschool - No school

## May

- 1 PTA 3:00 PM
- 2 Family Potluck hosted by Title 1 5:00 - 6:15
- 3 NO SCHOOL
- 10 Attendance Celebration Movie  
Last Day for Scholars Unlimited
- 22 5th Grade Field Trip  
5th Grade Talent Show 1:30
- 24 Last day of school for Preschool Students  
Kinder graduation 9:00  
5th Grade Continuation 1:00  
Last Day of School

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## We celebrate STAR★ behaviors!

**Safety:** Personal safety and safety for others.

**Teamwork:** Leadership of self, in small groups, and with the class.

**Attitude:** Positive scholastic and can-do-it attitudes.

**Respect:** Of your space, classroom, school, yourself and others.

**★Responsibility:** Personal, academic, and for the school.

## THE LEADER IN ME

During the months of February and March, your child will be learning about Habit 2 (Begin With the End in Mind), Habit 3 (Put First Things First), Habit 4 (Think Win-Win), and Habit 5 (Seek First to Understand and Then to Be Understood).

Habit 2. Begin With the End in Mind means to think about how you would like something to turn out before you get started. Reading a recipe before cooking or looking at a map before leaving on a trip is beginning with the end in mind. For young children, a good example is that of a jigsaw puzzle. Before doing a puzzle, they look at the cover of the box. They start with the end in mind.

Habit 3. Put First Things First means to decide what is most important and to take care of that first. Thinking about what needs to be done tomorrow or by the end of the week can be overwhelming, especially for children. Learning to think of which things are the most important and taking care of them first allows children (and adults) to be less stressed. If your child uses a planner at school, then he or she has a great organizational tool to Put First Things First in writing. By writing down his or her responsibilities and planning ahead, last-minute trips to the store, missed events, or missed homework are avoided. If your child does not use a planner, having a weekly log would also be helpful. This could simply be a piece of paper that is used each week. Modeling this behavior is one of the best ways to teach children.

Habit 4. Think Win-Win is the belief that everyone can win. It's not me or you—it is both of us. It is a belief that there are enough good things for everyone; it is an abundant way of thinking. Think Win-Win is being happy for others when good things happen to them. As a parent, not everything is negotiable, but if you go into discussions with your child with a win-win mindset, you'll find a lot less resistance.

Habit 5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood means that it is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication. Teaching Habit 5 to young children is done by first considering their age and development. Young children find it difficult to understand another's paradigm (point of view). This habit is best approached by introducing listening as a skill that should be practiced. Learning to listen without interrupting and learning to listen with your ears, your eyes, and your heart will help children build a foundation for Habit 5. Simply put, we have two ears and one mouth so that we can spend more time listening with the intent to understand.

Leadership Quote: *"Leadership is communicating to people their worth and potential so clearly that they come to see it in themselves."* - Stephen R. Covey

For more information on *The Leader in Me*, visit [www.TheLeaderinMe.org](http://www.TheLeaderinMe.org).

## PTA News:

PTA would love to have you join us! PTA meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3:15 p.m. in the library. PTA is a great opportunity to be involved with your student at Harris Park and to be able to openly share ideas. PTA is involved with many activities during the school year such as Skate City skate parties, Panda Express nights, Fun Services fundraising, collecting Box Tops, field trips, field day, holiday gift shop, holiday books for each student, student planners, Time for Kids, staff appreciation, and many other ways to be helpful to our school community.

## Upcoming events:

Wednesday, February 6: BAAC/PTA meeting 3:15-4:00 in the Library

Thursday, February 21: Panda Express Fundraiser Night 4:00-9:00 pm

Wednesday, March 6: BAAC/PTA meeting 3:15-4:00 in the Library



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## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Please be sure to give yourself additional time to get to school when there is rain or snow. Most people prefer to drop their child off in the hug and go lane rather than walk their child in. It will take longer to get through the line for drop off. Children should be dropped off between 7:40 and 7:55 AM. Children who walk into school after 8:00 will be marked tardy.

### **Weather Closure Information:**

Should inclement weather or emergency situations result in the closing of district schools, or an adjustment to school start or dismissal times, the information will be posted on the district web site and conveyed to a number of radio and TV stations for broadcasting. In the event of a closure, before and after school daycare programs at the schools will be cancelled and closed for the day. All activities scheduled in district facilities will be cancelled.

### **Weather Delay Information:**

- Harris Park Elementary will begin our school day at 10:00 a.m.
- Students arrive at the bus stop two hours later than the normal scheduled time
- Breakfast programs will not be provided, however, lunch will be provided
- Before-school programs will be cancelled
- Extracurricular field trips scheduled for the day will be cancelled
- After-school programs will maintain normal schedules unless otherwise notified

### **How will I be notified of a delayed start?**

- The decision to close schools or to open with a delayed start will be communicated as early as possible, but no later than 5:30 a.m.
- If the decision is made for a two-hour delayed start, but worsening weather requires the closure of schools, an announcement will be made by 8 a.m.
- As in the past, parents and employees will receive a phone call in the early morning, and information will also be shared with local TV stations and posted on the WPS and all school social media pages.

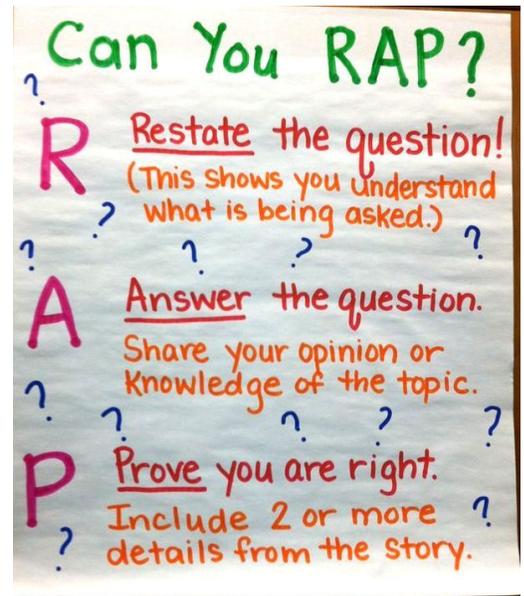
### **Update Your Contact Information**

- It is important for schools to have accurate contact information for all families and employees. If your phone number or email address changes, please share that information with your school's main office as soon as possible.

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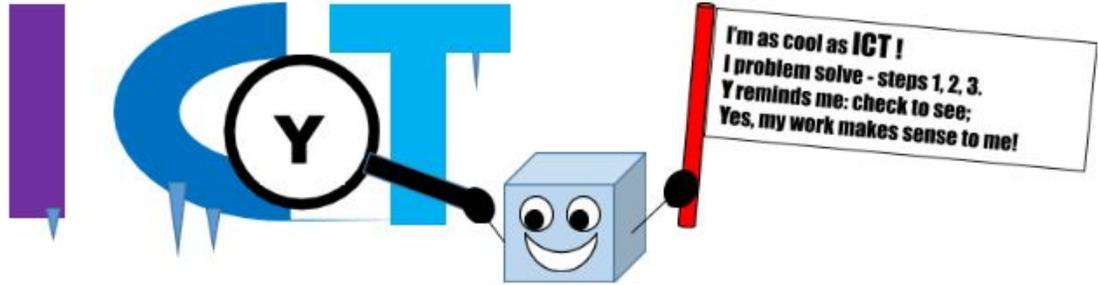
## Universal Academic Practices at Harris Park

We would love to partner with you in helping all Harris Park students use some of our universal practices while at home. All students are expected to be able to read a story, prompt, or look at a graphic and successfully answer a question about their reading, or compare and contrast two of their readings. At Harris Park, we use RAP to help us do this. The R stands for restating the question in their own words. A stands for answer the question. P stands for prove it, and students should use direct evidence from what they read or looked at to prove their answer. You could help your child practice this by asking them a question after reading a book with them, watching a movie, or TV show and encourage and support your child to use the RAP process.



In math, students are using ICyT to answer word problems. I stands for identifying important information, including what the question is asking. C is the calculation portion where students can draw a model or use other strategies to solve the problem. Y stands for yes, this makes sense, and is where students confirm their answer makes sense and allows them to check their work by solving the problem backwards. And, finally, T is therefore the answer is, and is where students write their answer.

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I mportant Information

C omputation / Modeling



(Picture, Diagram, Number sentence/Equation...)

T herefore,

my solution with a label is....