

February 2023

# THE EAGLES NEST

## AUSTELL ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER

### From the Desk of Dr. Marvin Byne, Principal



I want to give a big shout out to the students who participated in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. The students scored at the top level in our school area during the preliminary round of the reading bowl. The students had to read ten Georgia Award Nominee Books for the competition. Our media specialist-Mrs. Noel O'Brien; third grade teacher-Ms. Stacey Rivers; and first grade teacher-Mrs. Whitney Sutherland coached the team by helping the students to study and analyze the complicated topics and storylines from the ten books.

If parents would like to compile a list of books for their personal home library, I have listed below the books our reading bowl students had to read this year.

- *Isaiah Dunn is My Hero* by Kelly J. Baptist
- *Hope Springs* by Jaime Berry
- *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps (highly rated by our boys and girls)
- *Muffled* by Jennifer Gennari (highly rated by our boys and girls)
- *The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte (highly rated by our boys and girls)
- *Millionaires for the Month* by Stacy McAnulty
- *Power Up* by Sam Nisson
- *Root Magic* by Eden Royce
- *How to Disappear Completely* by Ali Standish

The books for the 2024 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl will be available this spring. We will share the titles of the books for students interested in participating and preparing for next year's reading bowl.

### Important Dates

- February 1** – Fifth Grade Trip to National Center for Human Rights
- February 1** - CCSD School Choice Window Opens
- February 9** - Chick-fil-A Family Night
- February 14** - PTA Valentine Cookie Gram Exchange (Wear Pink and Red)
- February 15** - Spring Picture Day (Dress up)
- February 20** - Presidents' Day (No School)
- February 20-24** - Winter Break (No School)
- February 28** - Junior Beta Club Induction
- February 28** - CCSD School Choice Window Closes

### CONGRATULATIONS Austell Reading Bowl Team

Khabeerat Adeniran	Angel Sanchez Estrada
Baylee Rivers	Oge Ihemdi
Lauryn Johnson	Kosie Omodia
Jose Martins	Melani Vega
Khloe Nichols	Trinity Newton

*Use the QR Code to read more about Helen Ruffin*

*Helen Louise Horton Ruffin*



## School Choice and Elementary Virtual Program

Cobb County School District has announced that it will end its Elementary Virtual Program (EVP) at the end of the 2022-23 school year. The school district will continue to offer the school choice. Information about school choice can be found on the CCSD School Choice webpage. The school Choice window is open from February 1 through February 28, 2023.

### Book Fair

We will have our Austell Spring Book Fair in the media center February 6 – 10). The hours for the book fair will be Monday - Thursday (7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.) and Friday (7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.). There will be books for all the categories you may be interested in buying. We would love to have your presence in our book fair.

## Gardening Club

The Austell Gardening Club students meet the second Thursdays of the month.



Students explore the magic of watching a tiny seed turn into something they can eat. They learn about different types of gardens, what is needed to grow a plant from a seed, how to take care of it, and why vegetables and beans are important parts of our diet. The Austell Gardening Club is a great way to ignite an interest in where food comes from as well as spark curiosity about trying new foods. If you would like to know more about our gardening club, please contact Mrs. Bazille ([cynthia.bazille@cobbk12.org](mailto:cynthia.bazille@cobbk12.org)), Mrs. Lodge ([tanya.lodge@cobbk12.org](mailto:tanya.lodge@cobbk12.org)), Mrs. Heine ([jennifer.heine@cobbk12.org](mailto:jennifer.heine@cobbk12.org)) or Mrs. Sizemore ([jessica.sizemore@cobbk12.org](mailto:jessica.sizemore@cobbk12.org)).

## New Austell Teacher



Welcome Austell's **NEW** Kindergarten Teacher, Temeka Circle Bear. She is bilingual and speaks her Native-American Language, Lakota, from the Lakota Nation-Mnicoujou. She obtained her Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS in 2013. Ms. Circle Bear graduated with her Master's of Education in Special Education from the University of Oregon in June 2017. Ms. Circle Bear enjoys reading, spending time with family, watching movies, College football (GA & OR), basketball (KS & OR), NFL(Atl. Falcons), and much more.

## New Austell Paraprofessional

Aaliyah Flanagan is our new Kindergarten Paraprofessional. She is a graduate of Dalton State College, and this is her first year here at Austell Elementary School as a paraprofessional. Presently, she is working on a master's degree at Walden University. Ms. Flanagan will work with Ms. Circle Bear's class. Ms. Flanagan says, "I am excited for this journey and can't wait to be a part of the Eagle nation!"



## SONG FOR THE MONTH

### *Lift Every Voice*

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark  
past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present  
has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

**Use the QR  
code to listen  
to the song:**



## Student Teachers

Mackenzie Merritt is a student teacher from Kennesaw State University. She has been assigned to Mrs. Weber's first grade classroom. She is excited about the experience of being in a first-grade class. She will graduate from KSU in December 2023.

Student teacher, Gabriela Mares, is a senior at Kennesaw State University and is placed with Mr. Mcneil in third grade. Ms. Mares plans to integrate herself into the AES community by attending school events and being a role model to the AES learners.

