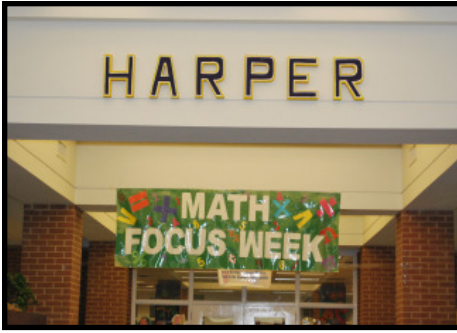


# Harper ES Math Focus Week 2010



During the week of March 22-26, Harper ES used its hallways creatively for its annual math initiative, Math Focus Week. For the second year, the teachers and administrators have presented an interactive and exciting teaching event.

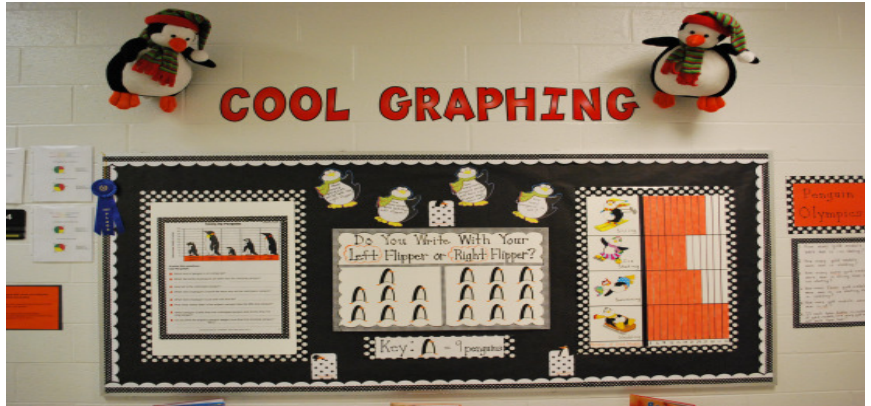
Teachers created interactive bulletin boards that reinforce mathematic concepts in a variety of ways. Each board featured a missing answer that the student must provide to complete the board. The answers may be provided in a number of ways: sticking cards, writing answers, attaching strings or, in one case, a purse with coins attached in the correct location. Then the answers are removed, setting the board up for the next participant. The math lessons focused on operations, definitions, graphing, measurement and many other Georgia Performance Standards. The standards for each lesson were also posted on each board.

The initiative was designed to balance math achievement with the schools achievement in reading. Although Harper ES has met AYP for five consecutive years, the administration wanted to strengthen math skills. Collaborative teams of teachers, administrators and the school math coach focused lessons on areas that needed reinforcing according to school assessment data.

“Like other school initiatives, Math Focus Week is successful because of our collaborate efforts.” stated Principal Lynda Daniel. “Every year, it gets better!”

The event also included five estimation stations where students estimated liquid, the number of items, and length. Additional stations focused on data, measurement, vocabulary, and reading. Teachers and guests read math stories to classes at the reading stations.

Parents were included with the “Are you smarter than our students?” station which featured worksheets for the parents to complete and work with their student.



Math Focus Week Board Winners:  
First place - Ms. Benson and Ms. Hendrickson



Second place - Ms. Capobianco



Third place - Ms. Thomas-Hines

“We could not have done this without the help of teachers and the community,” said Assistant Principal Wilbur Garner. “The success of the students is rooted in a supportive community.”

Boards were judged by district administrators and Garner found community sponsors to provide prizes for the winning bulletin boards. Prizes included gift cards from Longhorn and Olive Garden. The big reward for all teachers is seeing the students engaged. The boards will remain up for awhile to allow students additional opportunities for fun math interaction.

Math Focus Week provided engaging opportunities for elementary students from Kindergarten through fifth grade that lead students to rigorous



Wilbur Garner, Assistant Principial



Dennis Simon, Math Coach

learning. Based on the enthusiasm from both students and teachers, Math Focus Week has met its goal. The CRCT performance will provide the final evidence.