



Ridgedale Reporter

NEW YEAR BRINGS LOTS OF WORK

As we begin a new year, we start additional work to get the third, fourth and fifth graders ready for the West Virginia General Summative Assessment. Please make sure you are checking with your child to see what kinds of things are being done in the classroom to develop the understanding needed for the test. The students will be working with sample test questions to help to develop their understanding of how the test platform.

The teachers will be doing benchmark testing in January as well. We will be looking for improvements in the children's development in Math and Reading. The children have been working hard to make the improvements needed to move to the next level.

To maintain the progress made so far this year, we need to make sure our students are doing their homework every night. Please check with your child about their assignments and make sure they are following the expectations of the classroom. Make sure their planners are checked and signed each night.

As we get into winter, flus and colds begin to show their vengeance. If your child has a fever or shows signs of illness, please keep them home. We do not want to infect the rest of the children. When your child returns, make sure you send a note with them.

Ridgedale Families Exceed Prior Years Giving

Our Ridgedale families have always shown their generosity; however, this year you have gone above and beyond what was done in years past. We participated in the United Way Holiday Food Drive again this year. The Ridgedale families donated 7,249 items for this food drive. That is nearly 3,000 more than in the previous year. It is unbelievable the generosity that our families demonstrate each and every time called on to give to others! THANK YOU ALL for your participation. Families in Mon County will benefit from your kindness and generosity.

The Creating for a Cause Fundraiser was also a HUGE success. The ornaments were beautiful as always. The total was \$463.92. Thank you again for your generosity.

Ridgedale Elementary School

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IMPORTANT RIDGEDALE WEBSITES

☺ This is the address for the school website:
<http://res.mono.k12.wv.us/>

IMPORTANT DATES

- WELCOME BACK 1/3
- Mid Term
- Reports for 1/11
- second trimester
- Early Dismissal 1/19
- MLK Day 1/21
- NO SCHOOL

WATCH FOR THE INFORMATION FOR 2019

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



From the Principal's Pen

The holidays have come and gone. Students are now wishing for a snow day to break up the long road to spring break. It is the halfway point of the school year and children have grown and learned so much since that first day in August. Seven-year-olds make huge strides during the school year. They have grown from that exuberant, outwardly expressive six-year-old to a quieter, more sensitive seven-year-old who is trying to find a way to manage new feelings and cognition. They are no longer content with just the pencil sharpener, "sevens adore the eraser." They not only want to get things right, they want them to look beautiful too!

"On a bicycle I traveled over the known world's edge, and the ground held. I was seven."

An American Childhood ~ by Annie Dillard

7-year-olds...

- * Appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world
- * Time matters and they like to know what is coming next
- * They are curious and have a strong internal drive to discover and invent
- * Fine and gross motor skills are developing
- * Coordination is improving
- * They are sensitive to the feelings of others
- * Often have a best friend, but that may change frequently
- * They listen well, speak fluidly, and are expanding their vocabularies rapidly
- * Still like to have chapter books read to them by teachers and parents
- * Are more capable of sharing what they are learning and how they feel about what they have learned
- * Enjoy playing board games, especially enjoy playing games with one other person
- * Abstracted from Chip Wood, Yardsticks

Happy New Year to you and your family!

News from PreK

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a relaxing, enjoyable break with lots of fun family time. Thank you to all our family and friends who came out to watch us perform in our Winter Program. Now that we are back to school we will be working on remembering our rules and routines, and focusing on play plans, numerical operations and lots of hands on science activities. Arctic Academy packets have been sent home, so please make sure you review them and have them ready in case of an Arctic Academy Day. Contact your child's teacher with any questions about the packets. As always, please remember to send your child in appropriate clothing for outdoor recess (winter coats, gloves, hats, etc) daily. We are so excited to be back with the children!



News from Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten 2019! Happy New Year!! We have a busy road ahead. We will be preparing for mid-terms to be sent out on January 11th. We will be working on understanding addition, tricky teen numbers and counting to 100. In Language Arts we will be working on concept of word, blending and segmenting with guided reading.

Since January can be a snowy, cold month, please make sure you keep your Arctic Academy Packet handy. This packet was sent home in December. Do not work on packet until an announced Arctic Day. If you receive a county phone call or text, it will specifically say if it is an "Arctic Day." The state website and the local news will also indicate if it is an Arctic Day as well.

Remember to continue reading nightly and practice math facts. Thank you for all that you do!

News from First Grade

The First Grade Team is ready to begin 2019!! We hope you and your families had an enjoyable holiday. Now that we're starting the new year, here are some ideas for New Year resolutions!

Encourage your child to make some learning goals for the new year such as reading daily, memorizing addition facts within 10, and writing (keep a diary or journal at home, write grocery lists, or make birthday cards for friends and family).

Be prepared for the possibility of Arctic Academy days. A letter was sent home recently. If you need this information, please contact your teacher.

For Term 2, first graders will be learning place value concepts in Math as well as adding three numbers, and making a ten when adding and subtracting. They will practice counting and writing numbers to 120 also.

For Reading, students will be working on understanding the characters, setting, problem and solution in stories. They will also be practicing how to retell stories with the main idea, key details, and events.

Students will be working on writing opinions this term. Encourage them to share opinions in conversations with you. Ask them to support their opinion with solid reasons. Some ideas for conversations could be to share their favorite book, winter sport or present they received for Christmas. We encourage the students to respect the opinions of others too.

We expect to have a lot of great learning take place for Term 2!

News from Second Grade

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Winter Break and many memories were made. Before the break, we had a wonderful time traveling around the world learning about various cultures and holiday traditions from many countries. The Winter Program was a big success as well! We are all excited to be back together and ready to kick-off a wonderful 2019! In math, before the break, we worked on addition of 2-digit numbers. We will now be working on subtraction with regrouping. This can be a difficult concept for some. Knowing the basic facts will help tremendously. We will also be doing middle of the year benchmark assessments in reading and math. The results will help us plan our instruction and see if the children are making progress. We are excited to welcome 2019 and the opportunities it brings!!

News from Third Grade

Wow - where has the month gone? By now we are sure you have heard many elf stories.

Social Studies and Reading have found us learning about holiday traditions around the world. In writing, the students have been trying to persuade Santa to take them off the naughty list. We have been working very hard in Math on our multiplication facts and corresponding word problems. (During the break, please have your child continue to work on multiplication facts using Reflex) In Science, we have been doing exploration with stem activities.

We will begin interim practice tests in preparation for the end of the year testing as well as continuing our timed multiplication tests. The students can also expect a little more homework as we dig deeper into our curriculum.

We sincerely hope you enjoyed the magic and love of the season. Time passes so quickly and our children are only children once.

News from Fourth Grade

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. As we begin this new year, students will be begin working on multi-step word problems using order of operations in math. In Reading, we will move on to the next story in Journeys. The Invention Convention information will be sent home this month. Students will need to complete this assignment at home and bring in for the convention. A date has not been set for the Invention Convention as of yet; however, we are looking at mid-March. If you need assistance completing this assignment please let your teacher know. We will begin working on opinion writing in class as well.

News from Fifth Grade

We are continuing to stay busy in 5th grade here at Ridgedale Elementary School. Our Wax Museum that was held in December was a great success. Students worked very hard and did a fantastic job with their research, presentation boards and speeches.

Students participated in a class spelling bee in December and participated in a 5th grade spelling bee consisting of qualifiers from each of the three classrooms. Students were selected from this spelling bee to compete in the Monongalia County Spelling Bee that will be held in February.

Classes have switched science units upon starting the new trimester. Mrs. Bloom's class is now studying Living Systems, Ms. Stickelrs' class is studying Earth, Sun and Planetary Systems and Mr. Edgell's class is beginning a unit on Mixtures and Solutions.

As we rapidly approach the midterm of the 2nd trimester, as well as the school year being halfway completed, we would like to remind students and parents that students should have approximately 20 books read for their 40 Book Challenge at this point in time to be considered to be "on pace" for completing this assignment by the end of the year. Students also need to make sure that they come to school with a charged chromebook and a pair of headphones/earbuds each day.

We have much to look forward to in the coming weeks and months. The Science Fair will be held in April. All 5th grade students are required to participate in the Science Fair. Unlike the Wax Museum, work and research for the Science Fair are to be done outside of school.

Ridgedale Shining Knights

Kindergarten

Khloe Gillespie
Gideon Swearingen
Tyler Whetzel
Austin Calhoun

First Grade

Mila Parrish
Mya Duffield
Louis Slimak

Second Grade

Parker Noah
Uriah McDonald
Brynna Wood

Third Grade

Morgan Singleton
Lydia Stevens
Mark Hetzer

Fourth Grade

Haley Finley
Hailey Stasia
Lucia Vargas

Fifth Grade

Hope Denjen
Claire Cooper
Reed Dolin

News from Related Arts

The related Arts team would like to thank all the Dads or like Dads who participated in Dads Have Class. We look forward to seeing you next year.

The RA team would also like to thank the students for their hard work in making our winter music program a singing success.

Be thinking about your talents to be featured in our annual Ridgedales Got Talent. Info coming in the future. Finally, thanks to our volunteers, students and families for supporting our annual Creating for a Cause. We hope you enjoy your ornaments for many years and always think of the love and support Ridgedale provides to its community.

Technology News

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great holiday and was able to rest, relax, and have lots of fun. As the new year begins, here is an article about kids and tech (but it is good reminders to adults as well). Kids & Tech: Tips for Parents in the Digital Age <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx>

Arctic Academy

The other thing that January brings, is the possibility of inclement weather. Last year, we had our first Arctic Academy day on the day we were to return from the holiday break. This year we are better prepared for Arctic Academy days with the use of Schoology. All students and parents should now be able to log onto their Schoology accounts via the Ridgedale Home Page, or the phone app. The lessons should all be on each teacher's homeroom Schoology page under materials. If your child has internet, they simply click on the day and can do the lessons. If your child doesn't have internet access, they can access the information from the app on a smart phone or tablet, or they should have have the lessons/resources downloaded to their chromebooks. If there are problems accessing the materials for the first Arctic Academy day, DO NOT worry. The material can be turned in up to 3 days after and we will help your child as soon as they come back. This is still a learning process for everyone. If you have questions about technology issues or Arctic Academy, please feel free to email Ms. Tennant at wendy.tennant@k12.wv.us

News from the Library

Books, books, books!! Those are my favorite things in the world. I hope everyone received at least one new book as a gift AND had time to read it over the break! I would love to hear from all of the kids and adults about what they read. Books are the gifts that should be shared. I read a series titled Promises to Keep, which is a five book historical fiction series set in New Zealand, in a small rural farm community in the late 1800s. It was very fascinating to not only to get to know the wonderful characters, but to learn more about a time and place that I wasn't very familiar.

Speaking of books, I know that with all of the new presents, that sometimes library books get misplaced. Hopefully, as everyone is putting their new things away, they will take a few minutes to look for those missing library books!! We have to make sure the books are brought back for everyone else to enjoy.

Also, remember that not only can students read books from the library, but every student in Monongalia County has access to thousands of online books through Myon Reader. Students should know how to logon to myon, but if they are unsure-send their teacher or Ms. Tennant an email and we will get you the information.



Arctic Academy Days

The Arctic Academy was devised to provide academic activities for the students to do when the weather will not allow them to be out and in school. Please do not stress about these activities. We have and will continue to provide supports to help you and your child complete the work. The work should be things that are review, so if the activities seem easy, that is ok. We just want the children to work to maintain skills during times of inclement weather.

Children in K-2 should have received a letter of explanation of what the expectation are for them during these days. If your child is in K-2 and has no note, please let your child's teacher know. Children in 3-5 have chromebook based activities to do. You can access these activities with or without an internet connection.

This is just a brief overview of what is expected. If you need more information, there is a link on the school webpage. Please access that information. Remember the teachers will be available for questions here at school any time during the Arctic Academy day. Also, there will be no make day for an Arctic Academy day.

