



April

Ridgedale Reporter

April Happenings Bring Testing

April—a time of chirping birds, the environment exploding with green, baseball/softball bats cracking balls and a full school calendar! We are so happy to see the sunshine and hear the happy sounds as the children go to spend time in the sunshine. We are happy to also see the progress the children have made this year. It is amazing to watch as they work in their classrooms every day.

The second week of April we will have our career week. Mrs. Tilley has worked hard to get things organized to make this week a great experience for all. Please ask your children each night about their experiences during this exciting week. We will start the week with the Parent Volunteer Breakfast. If you have done things here at school to help us out, please stop by around 9 AM to enjoy some food and accept our thanks!

The third week brings the spring recess. We wish you all fun and rest during this break. We will begin the break on April 18 and children will return to school on April 23. That will begin the Field Trip season here at Ridgedale. Please keep your eyes open for the letters to explain your child's Field Trip.

Finally, at the end of the month, April 29, we will begin the WV General Summative Assessment. We ask you to please look ahead and mark your calendars. We need ALL students in grades 3 to 5 to be here on time everyday during that week. We will begin testing on Monday and end on Friday. Make sure your children have a good night's sleep and a good breakfast each morning. We want to have the best testing week YET!

Counselor Corner

We are looking forward to our career week which is April 8th-12th! There are many activities planned for the week and can't wait to show all our students the different opportunities they have. On Wednesday, April 10th, we will have our Careers on Wheels event and on Friday, April 12th, we will have speakers come into the school for Career Day. Don't forget the Career Week spirit days: Monday, April 8- Dress like your future career, Tuesday, April 9- Dress like a mad scientist, Thursday, April 11- Wear your pajamas to school (bring money in for our fundraiser), Friday, April 12- wear your favorite college attire (shirts, jerseys, team colors).

April 15th-17th we will be having a Zero Waste Week! This week we will be having our students focus on reducing the amount of food and plastic items that we waste. The students will also get a chance to make art with recycled items with Mrs. Garvin! Please talk to your students about this week and try to reduce waste at home too.

Throughout the month of April, we will be raising money for Make-A-Wish®. Please make sure to bring money and spare change into your students' classroom. The room who raises the most money will get a prize/party. We will also be having spirit days throughout the month to encourage participation in this fundraiser. The dates are: April 3rd - Wear your favorite team gear or colors; April 11th- Wear your pajamas to school; April 15th- Dress like a twin day; April 25th- Wear your sunglasses to school.

Ridgedale Elementary
School

Volume 5, Issue 8
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IMPORTANT RIDGEDALE WEBSITES

☺ This is the address for the school website:

<http://res.mono.k12.wv.us/>

IMPORTANT DATES

2 Hour	4/1
Early Dismissal	
Volunteer Breakfast	4/8
Science Demos	4/9
Careers on Wheels	4/10
Career Speakers	4/11
Father / Daughter Dance	4/11
Science Fair	4/16
PTO 4 and 6	4/16
Mid-Term	4/17
Spring Recess	4/18-4/22
Kindergarten Field Trip	4/23
First Grade Field Trip	4/24
Pre-K Trip	4/25
All-County Art / Choir	4/26
WV Assessment Begins	4/29

From the Principal's Pen

"April showers bring May flowers" as well as the beginning of the end of the school year. There are many activities on the calendar. Exciting things, fun things. Students know that field trips are in their future and warm, sunny days are on the horizon. Keeping focused on school becomes more difficult. For 10 and 11 year-olds in 5th grade, middle school may be only thing in their sights. We have all been there and we all understand. It is a rite of passage. Students are both scared and excited about the next journey in their academic career.

These soon to be middle school students have come a long way since kindergarten. Physically they have grown tall and have improved both small and large muscle group skills. They are happy and friendly, enjoying friends, family, and teachers. Although they are quick to get angry, they are also quick to forgive. These students are cooperative and work well with groups whether they are playing a game or doing an assignment. They can listen well, articulate their thoughts, explain their reasoning, and appreciate how others might see things. Their abstract thinking increases and they have the ability to concentrate for long periods. Fifth graders are eager to learn, and like rules and logic. They are good readers and comprehend what they read. They are writing more lengthy pieces, but prefer to write about themes such as friends doing things together in a variety of situations. They are mastering fractions and solving multi-step word problems. They like clubs, team sports, service activities, and being leaders in their school. They respond particularly well to adults who notice and appreciate their contributions to school, home, family, and friends. (Abstracted from Chip Wood, Yardsticks)

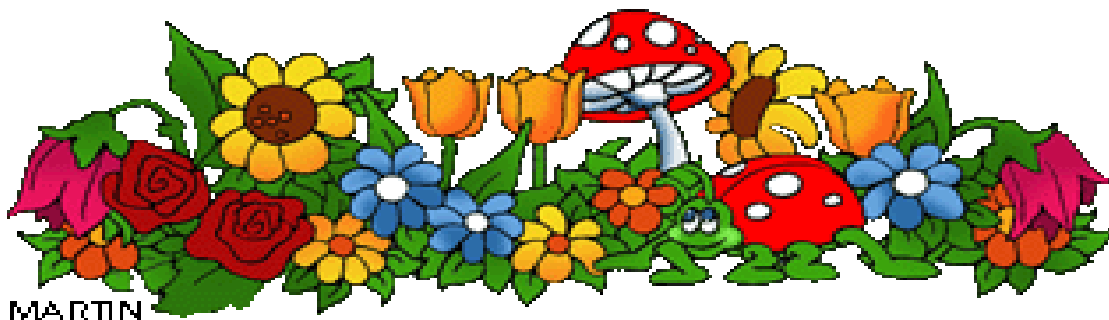
Yes, they have come a long way, but now more than ever, they need positive adults to guide them through the challenges of adolescence and middle school.

"Their lives crackle with the energy of change as they begin to establish a sense of physical and emotional identity."
~Chip Wood, Yardsticks.

News from PreK

Spring is in the air and we are looking forward to sunshine, fresh air, and warmer temperatures. Please be cognizant of the weather and dress appropriately for morning and afternoon, as temperatures usually range drastically this time of year.

As we are moving closer to the end of the year and starting to look ahead to kindergarten, the kiddos are working hard to master independence in many skills, as well as practicing emerging skills. Keep practicing writing names, identifying letters and numbers, counting, and asking questions!



News from Kindergarten

Happy Spring!! Kindergarten is moving right along. April is a crazy busy month. Get your calendars highlighted! It's not April Fools...there is a 2 hour early dismissal on April 1st and Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is April 8. Each week has some type of activity for the children from Everybody Counts to Science/Career Week to Kindergarten's WVU field trip. Spring Break is the 18th through the 22nd and the children resume on the 23rd which is our end of the year field trip. More information will be coming soon about our WVU Field Trip. Continue checking your child's folders and completing assignments! We are preparing for first grade!!! Little readers are being sent home for your child to practice his/her reading. Please be sure to send books back the next day. We will wrap up the year learning shapes and measurement. Your support is appreciated. We have a very busy schedule and a lot to accomplish in a short amount of time.

News from First Grade

First Grade is ready for Spring! There are many events to look forward to in April! The "Everybody Counts" program will do activities with children to help them understand what it's like to cope with different disabilities. Career Week will take place in mid-April. We look forward to parent presentations about careers, as well as listening to local professionals share their expertise. It's our hope children will be inspired and explore the possibilities!! Also, our WVU field trip will be in April! Details will be coming!

Please have your child continue to read daily, and practice sight words. We will begin to do timed tests for addition facts to 10. First grade students should be memorizing these. Don't forget to use the computer at home for practice! Students have access to their I-Ready math lessons and Smarty Ants (Reading) at home.



News from Second Grade

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that we are in our last trimester in second grade. We have been making the best of every day in order to prepare for third grade. The students have been busy being authors and illustrators as each class is working to publish their own classbook. Each second grade class chose a topic and after the student write and illustrate their page, they will be sent off to the publishing company. Information will be coming home as to how you can order your very own copy! In Science, we have enjoyed observing the life cycle of a darkling beetle. In Math, we have been working on addition and subtraction of 3-digit numbers, as well as adding several 2-digit numbers. We are now learning about data and measurement. Just a reminder...our end-of-the-year field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo will be May 15th.

News from Third Grade

Happy SPRING, finally!! We are so glad to have the winter months behind us, and hopefully lots of sunshine and great weather in our futures.

Third grade students have been working on their math facts this month with a little MARCH MADNESS using our I-ready math program. Each classroom has their own bracket to motivate our math learners to meet their end of year goals in iReady and fine tune those last-minute lessons before the year ends. Students will be taking an end of year I-ready assessment to measure their growth for the whole year. Please encourage your child to complete those lessons at home, so they can move forward in their brackets and compete for the FINAL FOUR. Each week new students will filter down through the brackets to be our final four winners. Who will be the winners of this year's March Madness? We can't wait to see the results in April!

What's coming up next? Testing will begin the week of April 29th. Here are a few test-taking tips to help your child during this week. First, and most importantly, children need a good night's sleep. Second, a good healthy breakfast at home or at school helps those little minds to think better. Third, give your child your vote of confidence as they leave for school. Your support will go a long way. The testing schedule is as follows: April 29th - Reading, April 30th - Writing, May 1st - no testing for 3rd graders, May 2nd - Math and May 3rd - Make -Up day. Please keep these dates in mind when scheduling appointments, etc.

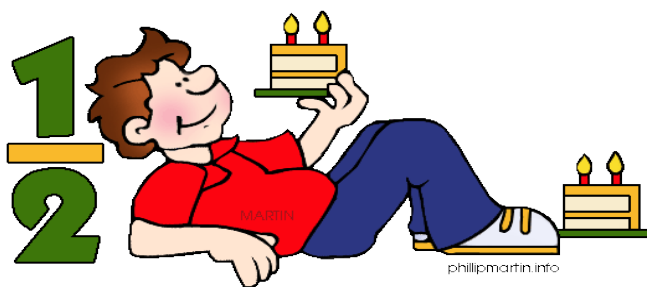
Also, for those who have not checked out the student and families tab on the West Virginia Airast Portal, there are plenty of practice questions to help your child prepare. This is a great way to help them navigate the tools, and answer questions that often arise when third graders take the test for the first time. Check it out!

<https://wv.portal.airast.org/users/students-and-families.stml>

News from Fourth Grade

March was a busy month for fourth graders. We would like to begin by thanking all students and parents/guardians that helped make this year's Invention Convention a success. The students put in hard work and came up with some incredible inventions. We will consider all of the suggestions provided. During this month, we continued to focus on fluency and comprehension strategies in reading and shifted our focus to fractions in math.

During the month of April, students will continue to focus on reading fluency and comprehension as well as various skills. Encourage your child to read at home daily. Math will shift from a focus on multiplication and division to fractions and decimals. Keep in mind your child is allowed to complete iReady lessons at home for extra practice. The writing will change from opinion to informative writing. During this month, students will be taking the writing assessment as well as the end of the year summative test. The end of the year test is scheduled for April 29 through May 3.



Ridgedale Shining Knights

Kindergarten

Brooke Ely
Wyatt Devlin
Faith Montague
Ariella Keplinger

First Grade

Hayley Downey
Mila Otto
Ryleigh Sickles

Second Grade

Brooks Taylor
Ireland Williams
Cole Cooper

Third Grade

William Esquerra
Nathan Hetzer
Zack Rogers

Fourth Grade

Audrey Davis
Aujiana Johnson
Roman Giles

Fifth Grade

Isabella Hose
Mathieu Hunt
Rowan Ebbert

News from Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is excited to welcome spring. We have kicked off the Quarterback Challenge to help the WVU Children's Hospital Hostetler Family Resource Center. All fifth grade students are invited to participate in the Lil' Mountaineer Dash. For more information, see www.walkthetalkwithhoss.com.

Bring in your quarters fifth graders!

With spring comes a new rush of deadlines and projects. We would like to remind all fifth graders to continue working on 40 Book Challenge, which is due on May 15th. Note that it is mandatory for all fifth graders. Science Fair participation is a requirement for all students as well. The Science Fair is April 16th; parents are invited to attend beginning at 2:30. Finally, testing week begins April 29th-- students should be present all week.

Library News

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to all of the parents, students, and staff that helped to make the spring bookfair a HUGE success! Students were able to take advantage of the Buy One, Get One free sale to purchase many great books. The excitement of all of the new books was evident by all of the smiling faces. I can't wait to hear about these new books.

In other news, we are starting to be in the final stretch of school. We will continue checking out books until the week of April 29th-May 3rd. All books will be due back by May 10th. Please start looking for those missing books. We want to make sure that the books are returned so that they can be enjoyed by all of the other students.

Technology News

Thank you for all of the parents that came to our first annual Kindergarten Chromebook Night. It was a lot of fun! Parents were able to learn about Myon, Smarty Ants, and iReady Math. We also talked about how to access student school accounts at home through Google, and Cyber Safety. If you have never checked out www.common sense media.org I highly recommend it. Common Sense Media is a site that you can learn about all different types of media, see ratings/reviews, find information, and safety tips to help you with your child's exposure to the world of media. There are even tips on how to help your students go "unplugged" during the warmer weather!

Other pieces of tech news:

Students in K-2 are encouraged to use the programs listed above to help practice skills at home.

Students in 3-5 are encouraged to use Myon, Reflex and iReady Math to practice skills. Students can also visit the WV Test Portal at <https://wv.portal.airast.org/users/students-and-families.stml> to practice sample questions for the end of the year state assessment. This is a great way for parents to see the types of questions that your child will be asked in reading, writing, math, and science (fifth grade only).

Chromebooks will need to be returned to school by April 24th. The chargers and bags will also need to be returned at this time. Missing chargers can be replaced for \$25.00 and missing/damaged bags for \$10.00. The Chromebooks will not be returning home after this date. Please encourage your students to continue taking care of their Chromebooks during this last month of school. It is usually during this time period that students begin to become careless and the screens become damaged or other damage is incurred. We have few spare Chromebooks and during this last month in preparation for testing and end of the year projects, the students will be utilizing them daily.

