

# So Very Thankful

## Ridgedale Reporter

### THANKFUL

As we turn the calendar to the Month of November, we should remember all that we have to be thankful for in our lives. Our school would like to thank each and every parent for all they do to help develop our students into the best that they can be every day. Our parents work so hard to make Ridgedale what it is—the place that others would want to be part of every day. Thank you for the positivity you provide for our students and the programs that are part of our school. Each of you provide a wonderful amazing part of the Ridgedale community. You are the reason we are here.

Thank you all for the attendance and participation in the Fall Fest. The PTO did an amazing job and the attendance was once again unbelievable. This is the biggest money making activity that the PTO does this school year. They are always happy to have the support of the parents and children. It is not one person that makes this work, it is EVERYONE working together. Our students will benefit from all the time and energy that went into this amazing evening.

On November 7, Ridgedale faculty and staff will be hosting the Second Annual Math night. We will begin the evening with dinner at 5:30. A light dinner will be provided to the families that attend the night. Then there will be games at each grade level that the parents will be playing with their children. It will give you some time to learn more about what your children do when they are working in the classroom. We plan to have the game time to run from 6:00 to 7:00. We would like to see a big turn out of families to be part of this Math filled evening.

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the first trimester. Students will be bringing home their first report card of the school year. Please take the time to review the grade report with your child. If you have not had or signed up for a conference with your child's teacher, our parent/teacher conference night is scheduled for November 14. Please be sure to touch base with your child's teacher to show your child their education is important to you.

The students will once again this year be attending a Women's Basketball game at the Coliseum. There will be more information that will be coming home for this activity. We are excited to be part of this county school activity through WVU. We appreciate the partnership with have with the University.

Finally, our fall break will begin on Friday, November 21 and will end on December 1. Enjoy the time with your family. We thank ALL of our families for the time and effort you put into making Ridgedale the great place it is to live work and play.

Ridgedale Elementary School

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### IMPORTANT RIDGEDALE WEBSITES

- ☺ This is the address for the school website:  
<http://res.mono.k12.wv.us/>
- ☺ This is the address for the PTO website:  
<http://ridgedalepto.yolasite.com/>

### IMPORTANT DATES

Happy Halloween	10/31
Family Math Night	11/7
<b>2 Hour</b>	
<b>Early Dismissal</b>	11/8
<b>Report Cards</b>	11/8
Custodian Day	11/8
<b>Veterans Day</b>	11/11
<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
<b>Conference Night</b>	11/14
<b>PTO Meeting</b>	11/19
<b>4 PM / 6 PM</b>	
WVU Women's Basketball School Day	11/21
<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	11/25-11/29
<b>Return to School</b>	12/2

## News from Pre-K

As we are moving through October and into November, there is more and more learning being done! Children are now familiar with learning centers around the classroom and the types of activities that can be done in those centers. Materials have been rotated to give children a variety of activities and engagement opportunities. Writing has begun in full-force in a variety of ways throughout the classroom, including at circle time, play plans, and within learning centers. Keep practicing identifying and writing letters at home! Weather is quickly getting cooler, but we will still be going outside if it's not too chilly. Please remember to send your child in a jacket or coat, according to the weather.

## News from Kindergarten

Halloween Parties and our Fall Festival are behind us. The parties were different this year, but the children seemed to enjoy them nonetheless. Thank-you to all of our parents who helped with this endeavor. Kindergarten went on our first field trip. The children had fun and learned about fire safety at the same time. The fire department had an interactive puppet show that explained some serious issues in a nonthreatening way. Important dates for you to remember are November 7th. This is Family Math Night at RES. A light dinner will be provided and then you will be off to your child's room for some fun math games. The evening begins at 5:30 and ends at 7:00. If you did not attend the first round of conferences, our next evening of conferences is Thursday, November 14th. Please call the office to set up an appointment. Friday the 8th has a lot going on. Report cards will be sent home on this date, it is a 2-hour early dismissal and it is also our Veteran's Day Program. Please dress your child in red, white and blue.

Academically, we have been focusing on letters and sounds, blending and segmenting, clapping out syllables, spelling and reading high frequency/red words. In Math, we are focusing on number sense from 0 - 10. Please continue to practice number identification, correspondence, and counting to 100. Be on the lookout for a turkey to come home with your child. Please help your child disguise his/her turkey so that it does not meet its demise from the farmers.

## News from First Grade

The First Grade Team would like to thank parents for attending our Oct. conferences! Please contact the office and schedule one on Nov. 14, if you weren't able to come in Oct. Partnering together makes a difference in your child's education!

Report cards will arrive Nov. 8. Please sign and return the envelope promptly. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher.

Students in first grade have been working on using the doubles strategy when adding 3 numbers in math. They also are working on addition facts for 6 and 7. Memorizing doubles and addition facts to 10 would be great to practice at home.

Keep reading with your child each night and practice sight words. Here are some tips about sight words:

- Sight words are also called "high frequency" words (commonly used words)
- Research indicates that children need 12-20 meaningful exposures to learn a sight word (this will vary)
- Sight words often have irregular spellings and don't always follow the "phonics" rules (that's why they are more difficult to learn)

Here are some ways you can practice sight words at home (practicing/writing the word 3 times is a good rule to follow)

- Paint the words
- Make the words in playdough
- Practice the word in context (write it in a sentence or do a word hunt when reading)
- Put tempera paint in a Ziploc bag and trace the word 3 times
- Make the word with Legos

You and your child can come up with other fun ways to practice sight words based on their individual interests.

Our First Grade Team is thankful for our parents and students!! We wish you a "Happy Thanksgiving" with your friends and family!

## News from Second Grade

Second grade welcomed fall with many fun learning activities. We did a pumpkin math science activity where we explored all the parts of a pumpkin. Skills covered included: estimating, measuring, and counting. Students also became engineers as they designed a package that would protect their pumpkin when dropped. Despite the change in our normal routine, the Halloween parties were still a big success.

To incorporate Math 4 Life, each classroom followed recipes to create applesauce or vegetable soup. Also in math, we have been working on two-digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. We hope to see a lot of face

The county will once again be implementing Arctic Academy days. Please look for more information on this coming home the week before Thanksgiving break. Thanksgiving Break will be here before we know it. We hope you enjoy this special time with your family and friends.

## News from Third Grade

**Writing:** The cool, fall air has finally arrived and we are so excited to embrace all things Autumn. Third grade teachers hope that you all have had a festive start to fall with pumpkin patches, apple picking, and maybe even a hayride or trip to the farm. This is a GREAT time of year to discuss these sensory experiences. They help students identify and express with their own language their thoughts and feelings, which benefit them as writers! We have been working on writing personal narratives in class. Our writers are learning what it means to create writing with a strong lead, to paint a picture with their words, and adding a satisfying end to a story.

**Social Studies/Science:** Students have explored America's Natural Landmarks with our new social studies curriculum. We've enjoyed seeing some of America's beautiful landscapes and National Parks through our digital books. We've taken virtual field trips, planned for vacations, and practiced locating information in a text, which is a huge skill to master in third grade.

**Math:** You may see your child coming home to work on their "Green Light" in Reflex math. What is that exactly? It's a quick and effective way for students to learn their math facts. The program tracks their progress and alerts teachers of students' mastery of these facts. They should try to get their green light DAILY. These facts are the foundation of their math learning and SO important for them to master. Students are getting ready to move on to multiplication and division facts soon if they haven't done so already. All students are given the opportunity to earn their green lights during school hours, but for some they may need a few more minutes to finish up at home. Students are phasing into concepts related to multiplication and division number stories, making equal groups, arrays, writing repeated addition sentences and being able to use their I-ready vocabulary in their mathematical discussions in class. Please look for our Family Letters to come home for I-ready to stay up to date with what we are learning.

## Ms. Jennifer Nichols, Third Grade

Ms. Nichols used her pseudo classroom when she was a child to pretend to be a teacher. She has always wanted to be a teacher. She went to WVU and got a degree in Child Development and Family Studies. After she worked awhile in Child Development, she realized her real LOVE was teaching. So she went back to school and got a degree in education. Ms. Nichols believes being a teacher is her calling. If she could be anyone, she would be her mom. She feels her mom was kind, smart, courageous, and determined. When she is not at school, Ms. Nichols enjoys spending time with family, friends, and pets. She also loves walking on the rail trail, attending sporting events, and reading.

If Ms. Nichols had all the money she needed she would have two hypoallergenic therapy dogs. They would be a great addition to the classroom environment. The dog would be able to provide comfort, love, and emotional support to a student that may be having a not so great day. A therapy dog could also teach the students responsibility and about pet ownership. If she could be a super hero it would be Batgirl. That was a tough question for her because she does not know a lot about super heroes. However a child once told her she was like Batgirl because she is smart, focused and likes animals.

Ms. Nichols uses math on a daily basis in her classroom. She likes to use real world scenarios to help her students understand why they are learning a concept.

## News from Fourth Grade

The school year is flying by! It's almost the end of the trimester. The fourth grade classrooms have been busy since the beginning of the year and continue to work hard every day. During the month of October, we began exploring multiplication and division in math and are currently still focusing on these concepts. Our classes are continuing to develop reading fluency, reading skills, and comprehension strategies through our weekly lessons. We finished our West Virginia history unit in social studies and will continue to focus on plant adaptations in science. The fourth grade students also had excellent behavior during the performance of Matilda at the Met Theatre. We were proud to have two of our fourth graders as cast members. Caroline Holben and Avery Garvin did an excellent job performing!

Academically, we will continue to strengthen our reading skills and strategies over the next month. In math, we will focus on multiplication and division still but will move towards patterns and multi-step word problems. As for social studies, we will finish up communities and discuss economics and then move on to the 13 Colonies. During science, we will continue to cover plants and animals, their adaptations, and survival. We will then lead into the types of waves. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions.

### Ms. Cara Spaziani, Fourth Grade Teacher

Ms. Spaziani had always aspired to be a teacher and part of the profession that makes an impact on society. She says that her love for learning and her own teachers helped to inspire her to pursue the path of education. She still remembers the days of learning and inspiration in the classrooms where she was taught. Ms. Spaziani says that her teachers would have found her to be a dedicated student. She always loved learning. She was also VERY talkative. With that said, she understands why it is important for students to talk and collaborate. In her free time, Ms. Spaziani loves spend time with family and friends. She also loves an active life style.. She is hoping to start coaching softball in the spring here in Mon County.

If she could be a superhero, she would be Wonder Woman because she is symbolic of equality, peace, and diplomacy. She thinks our world would be a more conflict-free, accepting place with more of those qualities in it. If money were no object, she would make learning a hands on collaborative time. She would love to have gardens, kitchen, and animals in her world. She would use these to teach children about the real world and how all things interact. She would have her students put on performances using the literature they are reading. She would use real life to help her students learn new things about themselves, others and the community. If she could be anyone for a day, she would love to be one of her students. She would like to see how they understand what she is trying to teach them.

Ms. Spaziani uses math everyday in her teaching. One of the biggest way is by using the data from student performances on tests. She uses this data analysis to help to plan lessons and make sure all students are successful.

## News from Fifth Grade

With November moving in, the first trimester has come to a close. Fifth graders are now in high gear with academics. The fifth grade spelling bee is on November 6; the winner will move on to the county spelling bee (date to be determined). Reports cards are sent home November 8 and envelopes need to be signed by parents/guardians and returned.

As we move toward December and winter break, students are reminded to practice math skills via I-Ready, Khan

### Mrs. Marsha Conard, Cafeteria Manager

Mrs. Conard became a school cook because she loves kids and cooking. Her teachers would have said she was quiet and shy. She said she has changed a LOT since school. In her free time, Mrs. Conard likes to do crosswords, puzzles and take rides on her side by side. She also loves to garden and go to yard sales. Baking is her specialty. She loves to make cookies, cakes and pies. Oh and she makes a "mean deer tenderloin"!

If she could be anyone else, she would be her own mom. She is a good mother, listener and friend. She is always there for her children and grandchildren.





## News from Related Arts

Coach, Mrs. Roskos and Art Garvin are proud of all the Ridgedale engineers who made the pumpkin drop a smashing success! Thank you to City Crane, Central Van and Storage, and Procon LLC for donating pumpkins, boxes and a crane.

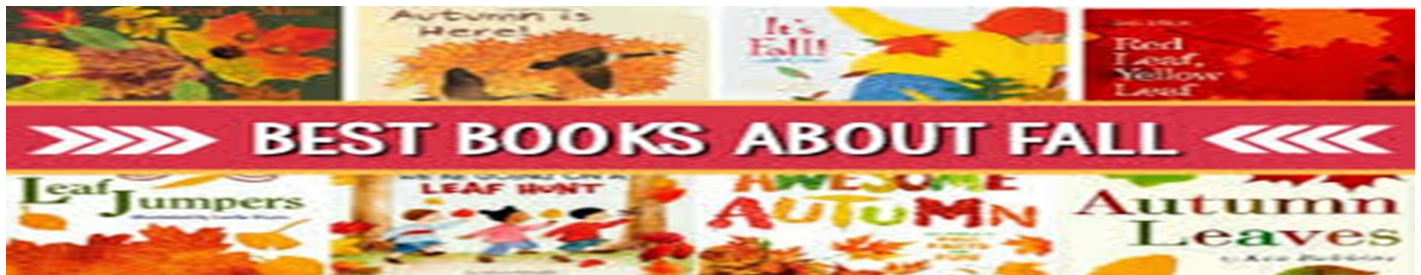
Choir is looking forward to singing and saluting during the Veterans Day Celebration.



## News from the Library

Thank you so much for all of the wonderful support for the Fall Book Fair. Ridgedale has the best parents in the county. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time to help students make wish lists and shop. The children love the bookfair and it can only happen with the help and support of the parents and community. This year the bookfair was made even more special by having some special guests on Friday. Ridgedale was chosen by a local foundation, Cassidy's Korner, to help us buy books for a few of our students. This foundation also made a donation to the school library to help purchase more books and materials. If you are not familiar with this wonderful charitable group, check out [www.kassidyskorner.org](http://www.kassidyskorner.org) and possibly consider making a donation in honor of Cassidy.

Also, we finally are underway with checkout for all students in grades Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It took a little while to make sure our little Chargers know how to take care of their library books. Kindergarten and First Graders all have library bags to carry their books to and from school. Please keep the book in the bag when it is not being read, and then return the book and bag together each week



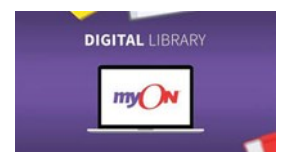
## TECH NEWS

There are lots of GREAT things going on in the world of Tech at Ridgedale. Kindergarteners have pretty much mastered the task of logging on (this is a HUGE undertaking for young children who do not all know their alphabet). Great job Kindergarten!

First graders have learned how to open a google doc, rename it, and use skills such as: making shapes (bigger and smaller), copy/paste, and using the shift key.

Second Grade has learned how to do many things these first two months of school. Some of these include: completing a MYON reading/writing project about apples, beginning to use Google Classroom, and using google docs and slides and shortcuts such as CTRL C and CTRL V (if you don't know what these keystrokes do, ask your second grader!!)

Third through Fifth grades have now all had two lessons in code.org and are learning the beginning basics of computer science (coding). Code.org is a great curriculum that is free and builds upon itself for all levels from Pre-K to College. This is a great opportunity for our Ridgedale Students to begin learning these valuable skills that will be built upon as they grow older.





Ridgedale PTO would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2019 Fall Fest. If you have the opportunity, please patronize these businesses:

**Game/Activity Sponsors:** MVB Bank, Your local Sprint Store (Walmart plaza off Hornbeck Road), Cardinal Pediatrics, Middletown Homes, Kellie Droz Real Estate by Vickie Jenkins & Associates, March-Westin Company, Inc., XSCAPE!, Home Savings, Bank-Jeremy Bryan, Arnett Carbis Toothman, Reachbuilt Construction, Rumorz Hair Salon, Allstar Contracting, LLC, The WOW Factory, Leigh Ann Bryan Realtor at J.S. Walker Associates, IT Mindshare, The Shoe Story, Taylor Law Office, River Fair Trade, Goshen Baptist Church, Pizza Hut and Target

**Kitchen Sponsors:** Pizza Hut (Brockway Avenue), Premier Property Maintenance, Brook Valley Veterinary Clinic, Procon Services LLC, Middletown Homes, PC Renewal, Nutrition You, LLC., Giant Eagle and Walmart

**Silent Auction Basket Sponsor/Donors:** Adventure WV Outdoor Educational Center, Barnes & Noble, Book Exchange (Downtown Location), BoParc, Chick-Fil-a @Morgantown Mall, Firehouse Subs, Mountain Man Axe Throwing, Mountaineer Nation, The Aquatic Center-Mylan Part, Olive Garden, Our Family Craft Shop, Red Lobster, Spark Imagination Science Center, Suburban Lanes, Target, Terr Café, Thirty-One Consultant-Tracy Collins, Tygart Valley Cinemas, Walmart, WV Public Theater, WVU Bowling Alley



## Ridgedale Shining Knights

### Kindergarten

Maya Grim  
Hudson Beech  
Claire Moats

### First Grade

Avaya Brown  
Brayden Summers  
Khloe Gillespie  
Marshall Widders

### Second Grade

Harper Kurlichick-Green  
Hailey Hurt  
Henry Erdely

### Third Grade

Donovin Murray  
Ava Mason  
Bronwyn Wilchek

### Fourth Grade

Eastyn Smith  
Justin Thompson  
Jax Thomas

### Fifth Grade

Corey Boyd  
Cameron "Cami" Smith  
Ava Newman