



Ridgedale Reporter

Ridgedale Elementary School

Volume 6, Issue 3
November 2019

THANKFUL

The month of December is here already. Your children continue to progress and grow leaps and bounds. We are so happy with their progress and all that is happening at the school. As you can see, our building project continues to thrive and move forward. We are so happy to have the support of the local board and the county administration. Our pains with the process are minor compared to prize when all of the building is complete.

We hope that you will be able to be part of the Winter Music Family Learning Week. Your child would love to have you be part of the activities that Mrs. Roskos would like to share with you. Come in and join the fun!

A HUGE thank you to all who have contributed to our yearly give back activity the community food drive. We are so happy to provide the chance for our children to be a part of this activity. Our families at Ridgedale always go above expectations when they are giving to others. We are so lucky to have all of you in our school family.

Mrs. Roskos will be taking the choir on their annual adventure to do some caroling on December 19. They will be going to Harmony and Emcompass and then on to the Mall. The choir members always look forward to this exciting trip. They all have a great time and represent the school very well.

As the days quickly go by this month, please make sure your child is in school every day. We need to continue the march to educate your children and we can only do that if they are in school everyday! Please remember the start time for school is 8:45. Your child should be in the building ready to begin the day by 8:45. Our school day ends at 3:35. Please schedule appointments so that the school day is not interrupted. Our children need to be in school to get all they can from the instruction and activities that happened in our classrooms.

As we end this calendar year, we would like to say THANK YOU to all of the parents here at Ridgedale for all they do to make our children successful. Whether it is doing homework with your child or being active with all that goes on each and every day, we still appreciate all you do. Ridgedale's success is directly related to the parents and their constant support. Spend the days of your break with family and friends. Let everyone important to you know how much they mean to you. Have a great Break and we will see you in 2020.

IMPORTANT RIDGEDALE WEBSITES

© This is the address for the school website:

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

IMPORTANT DATES

End of Food Drive	12/4
Winter Music Family Learning Week	12/9-12/13
LSIC Meeting	12/16
Choir Trip	12/19
2 Hour Early Dismissal	12/20
Winter Break	12/23-1/5
End of Break Return to School	1/6



News from Pre-K

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us! This school year is just flying by! Our Pre-K children have all started writing their daily Play Plans which help build letter identification skills, strengthen letter sound recognition, and build fine motor skills. They are exploring different learning stations and planning their activities in each station. Counting objects, learning to identify and write numerals, and practicing patterns are daily math activities. Science is always a favorite area to explore with lots of hands on experiments. We are learning to observe, make predictions, and give reasons for our predictions. As a friendly reminder as the weather turns colder, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Also, please replace your child's change of clothing to be kept at school with winter weather clothing. Happy Holidays to all! See you next year!

News from Kindergarten

Kindergarten is moving right along. We have been busy bees! In Language Arts we will continue working word work skills and learning new sight words. We will begin a Gingerbread Unit that will allow us to learn different versions of the same story, comparing stories, identifying characters, setting and the main idea. The children are focusing on using sounds to make words and using words we know to create sentences in writing. We will also incorporate a unit study of the five senses along with the Gingerbread lessons.

In Math we are working on building numbers using number pairs, addition and subtraction through number stories, exploring and identifying shapes. These concepts will continue into the new year.

Please check the school calendar for upcoming events! December is a very busy month. The Winter Music program will be a little different due to the lack of parking. There will be a Winter Music Family Learning Week. You are invited to participate in music and movement with you child during the regularly scheduled Music class. Thank you for your support and helping your child have a positive learning experience in Kindergarten! Have a great upcoming break!

News from First Grade

The First Grade Team would like to thank parents for attending our November conferences! Partnering together makes a difference in your child's education! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. Students in first grade have been working on adding and subtracting numbers within 10 in math. They also are working on understanding the equal sign and teen numbers. Continue practicing subtraction and addition facts to 10 at home. Keep reading with your child each night and practice sight words. Choosing books that your child enjoys reading can serve as the best motivator. Some tips for practicing sight words:

- Sight words often have irregular spellings and don't always follow the "phonics" rules (that's why they are more difficult to learn)
- Create flash cards and play memory
- Place these flashcards around the house or room and have your child "hunt" for them. Have them check off words they find on a check list.
- Have your child highlight the words they find in stories.

Our First Grade Team is beyond grateful for the parents, guardians, and students we have! We hope you enjoy the holidays with your friends and family!

Ms. Hatton, First Grade Teacher

Ms. Hatton became a teacher because she loves children and likes watching them grow and progress. If money was no object, Ms. Hatton would like to have more room in her classroom. She would love it if our school had a sensory room and a STREAM lab to do experiments in during the day. In elementary school, Ms. Hatton said teachers would describe her as a good student, quiet, and helpful. In high school and college, she's sure they would have described her as loud and talkative.

When she is at home she enjoys hiking, traveling, exercising, and drinking coffee. If she could be a super hero it would be Wonder Woman because she is fearless, she perseveres, is and dedicated to helping those who can't help themselves. If she could be anyone else it would be Walt Disney.

Ms. Hatton says she uses math anytime I figure out the time, how much longer we have, or how much extra time we might have. I use math whenever I figure out how many students are in the classroom or if anyone is absent out in the bathroom. I use math constantly throughout my day.

Mrs. Friend, First Grade Teacher

Mrs. Friend became a teacher because as a young girl she always dreamed about becoming a teacher because her teachers were able to make learning so much fun. As she got older, school was not as easy for her but teachers always took the time to help her in a differentiated way. Her teachers instilled within her a desire to learn, challenge herself and explore. She wanted to share that same experience with others. Supportive individuals within a child's learning experience can foster future success. She wants to be that supportive person for children. If money were no object, she would want The Secret Phonics Stories. Secret Stories act as "memory-enhancers," helping learners remember letter sounds through brain based strategies. Students learn the engaging reasons why letters make different sounds when they get together in words, making learning to read easy! Mrs. Friend's teachers would have described her as "Chatty Kathy". She was hard working and creative.

In her free time, Mrs. Friend likes spending time with family and keeping an active life style. If she could be a super hero it would be FLASH. His ability to run at the speed of light would be really great in everyday situations, just think how practical can this be in real life (especially the life of a teacher)! She could be having breakfast in Australia and have a second breakfast in Sweden in just a blink of an eye! Also, goodbye expensive airfare! Hello, punctuality! IF she could be anyone she would like to be Jan Richardson, so she could rock all things literacy.

She uses math everyday to calculate grades, budget cost of supplies, estimate time to complete tasks, grouping students, calculate assessment data, use graphs and charts to display progress monitoring and student growth.

News from Second Grade

During this Thanksgiving season we have been reflecting on how we are thankful for many things. We have enjoyed learning about the history of the first thanksgiving. We are looking forward to learning about different cultures in our upcoming Social Studies unit Christmas around the World. We have been off to a great start collecting cans and food for the annual food drive. We also participated in raising funds for the Wreaths Across America program, in order to help place a holiday wreath on the graves of all veterans. We have been very impressed with the students display of empathy towards others, through their participation in both programs. Please remember to put the Arctic Day packet in a safe place, so that you will know where to find it when needed on those days. We will continue to build our math skills by practicing double digit addition and subtraction and soon be moving to three digit numbers! Please encourage your child to continue reading and practicing math over our holiday breaks.

Mrs. Carter, Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Carter has wanted to be a teacher since first grade. She feels it is part of her personality to help others. If money were no object, she would buy a bus to take students to various things. This would help the children understand what they are learning about each day. She would also like more space in her classroom, but who doesn't want a bigger classroom? Her teachers would have said she was a people pleaser. She always wanted to make her teachers happy.

When Mrs. Carter has free time she loves to go to concerts, read, cook and do cross-stitch. If she could be a super hero she would be Wonder Woman. She can do it all and looks great doing it! If she could be anyone, she would like to become her children. Then she could see how they feel about the way she parents through their eyes. That way Mrs. Carter could see what she could change to help them become functional young adults.

Mrs. Carter uses math in her job by looking at test scores to see what she can do help her students become better learners. She uses math when counting her students, and how many need hot lunch. She also uses math when trying to determine where they are going and how long it takes to get from place to place. Math is very important to her as a teacher.

News from Third Grade

Third grade students are continuing their work on fact fluency. In the month of December, students will be taking a weekly assessment to check their progress in mastering multiplication facts. Beginning December 2nd students will have a weekly set of facts to learn. There are some games available online to use for studying such as: multiplication.com, prodigy, and ABCYA.

Students will begin a novel study when we return from Thanksgiving Break on the book The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. We will be reading it together as a class. All of third grade will be completing this as a unit study. They will still be working on vocabulary, comprehension, and other reading skills.

Also, as a friendly reminder please encourage your child to wear or bring appropriate winter attire! ☺

News from Fourth Grade

We've officially made it past the first trimester! Where has the time gone? During the past month, we've had a few different activities. All of the Halloween celebrations were a success. Thank you to our parents for making that possible. The school also held their annual pumpkin drop. The students worked well with each other to try and design their class box. The fourth grade students also created a community service project. They came up with and voted on helping the animal shelter. After one week, we were able to provide several donations to the Monongalia Dog Pound. There was a wonderful article in the Dominion Post. Also, a big congratulations to Ms. Spaziani's class for getting the monthly attendance trophy again and receiving Sir Attends-A-Lot! Will they continue their winning streak?

Academically, we will continue to work with our Journeys reading stories and skills. In math, we will continue to focus on multi-digit multiplication and division and then lead into multiple step word problems. As for social studies, we will finish economics and hopefully have our lemonade stand up and running very soon. We will 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 electrical and sound waves. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

News from Fifth Grade

Can you spell scoundrel, gnaw or expiration without the aid of a dictionary or thesaurus? Well, that's precisely what our 18 spelling bee qualifiers had to do on November 6, 2019 when they nervously articulated each letter of a word given to them by Ridgedale Elementary's Spelling Bee Coordinator, Mrs. Stickler.

Once again, Ridgedale Elementary has enrolled in the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee which began in 1925 when nine newspapers came together to host a spelling bee. And now, 90 plus years later, their literacy efforts reach 11 million students each year!

All 76 Ridgedale fifth graders participated in the initial round which resulted in 6 winners from each classroom. The classroom winners were as follows:

Mr. Edgell's Class:	Mrs. Parsons's Class:	Mrs. Stickler's Class:
Camden Quinlan	Elisabeth Allen	Isabell Kegley
Aidan Petsko	Hudson Blake	Greer Bilotta
Quinten Stern	Colton Hetzer	Ava Newman
Abigail Bible	Nathan Ross	Collin Ridgeway
Derika Nestor	Lucia Vargas-Lacasell	Mya Walters
Madeline Erdeley	Kayleigh Zickafoose	Haley Finley

After several weeks of practice, the 18 contenders came together to compete for the county-wide competition. With an audience comprised of the remaining fifth graders and their teachers, these candidates carefully spelled out words from the official Scripps National Spelling Bee list. They could ask for the word to be defined, used in a sentence, or the part of speech. After seven challenging rounds, the finalists were narrowed down to the final 2 winners, with 1 alternate (in the event that one of the winners is unable to attend).

And the winners representing Ridgedale Elementary and going on to the county-wide Scripps National Spelling Bee are: Collin Ridgeway and Ava Newman! The 3rd place winner was Quinten Stern and he is the alternate school winner.

News from Related Arts

The Related Arts Team has enjoyed a month of celebrating gratitude. PE and Music have combined for a movement and music unit using parachutes, and choreographing aerobic workouts with rhythm sticks. In Art we've been exploring the elements and principles of art in various projects. We combined classes for our Star Lab right before Thanksgiving break. We showed Native American constellations and told traditional stories associated with those constellations. In December we will combine again to Create for a Cause. All students will create an ornament. Students may exchange a donation to WVUH Children's Hospital for their keepsake ornament. In lieu of our traditional Winter Concert all parents of Kindergarten through Third Grade students are invited to their child's music class the week of December 9-14 for an interactive music experience. Be prepared for your child to choose you as a partner for a musical activity! Our yearly trip to the mall and Harmony will be on December 19. The new year will begin with the tryouts for Ridgedale has talent! The RA Team at Ridgedale wishes everyone a joyous holiday season!

News from the Library

Brr! Winter is on its way and the best way to spend these dark cold nights is with a good book. One of the very best gifts you can give your children, is the gift of reading. One idea is to pick 24 different Holiday books out with your kids and then choose a different one to read each night in December. This is a FABULOUS take on the traditional Advent calendar. This is a great idea for kids of all ages, even the ones that say they are too old for picture books and they don't need read to. This family time of reading and discussion themes such as treating people kindly and that the holidays are more than material things!



TECH NEWS

As winter starts to appear, we need to be ready for the potential for an Arctic Academy Day. There are directions on the Ridgedale Website for how to access the materials for grades 3-5 on Schoology (students who do not have internet at home needs to download the lessons to their chromebooks at school, if your child does not know how to do this, please have them see their teacher as soon as possible). Pre-K through 2nd grade should have received a one page direction sheet for activities to complete. If there are any questions about the computer activities or lessons for the upper grades please contact the child's teacher or Ms. Tennant at:

wendy.tennant@k12.wv.us.

Hopefully, we won't need to utilize Arctic Academy Days, but it is always better to be prepared



Ridgedale Shining Knights

Kindergarten

Ryan Arthurs
Emerson Quinlan
Julianne Flanagan

First Grade

Maxwell Cunningham
Desmond Delaney
Bryleigh Williams
Lauren Ross

Second Grade

Garrett Ours
Peter Ice
Anthony Pearson

Third Grade

Danelle Duley
Brian Mahew
Jonah Shaffer

Fourth Grade

Jaxon Howell
Lucy Ice
Caroline Holben

Fifth Grade

Josalyn Ammons
Emily Collins
Nathan Kimon



DECEMBER, 2019

Dear Families:

As we prepare to take a break from school for the upcoming holidays, we want to express our gratitude and thank you for making daily school attendance a priority and recognizing the importance of sending your child to school every day, on time, and ready to learn.

We especially appreciate your efforts to avoid taking extra days off during the holiday season. Every year absences seem to spike in the weeks before and after the holiday breaks. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to too much lost classroom learning time and put your child behind in school.

However, if missing school is unavoidable, please talk to your child's teacher in advance to create a plan for making up missed work. Although this is helpful, it cannot make up for the interaction and learning time in the classroom. So we encourage you to make sure your child is in school every day prior to the holiday breaks.

As a reminder, the Thanksgiving school break is scheduled for November 25 thru November 29 with school resuming on December 2. In addition, the winter school break is scheduled for December 23 thru January 3 and school will resume on January 6.

So as we look forward to the holiday breaks, we thank you again for sending your child to school and want to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Burlington United Methodist Family Services
Student Attendance Team

