

# DECEMBER



# Ridgedale Reporter

## End to 2020, 2021 Here We COME!

As we begin the last month of 2020, we find ourselves continuing another round of remote learning. The teachers at Ridgedale appreciate all of the hard work you have been doing, making sure your students are doing their assignments and participating in their google meets each day. As you journey through the next few weeks, please remember to maintain your Covid-19 safety habits. Wash your hands, wear your mask and socially distance. It is what will keep us all safe.

We all look forward to the Christmas fun activities that happen during the month of December at school. However, with all that is happening, that will be put on HOLD for this year. Hopefully life will be back to a more normal status next year and we can celebrate at school again. Teachers will be using this time to spread joy and provide the BEST education for your child. They will be doing holiday themed activities in their classrooms. Maybe we can have a little holiday cheer in spite of all that is going on.

Just a few reminders. Please remember the weather is cold and will continue to be cold for a while. When the temperature allows it, we WILL be going outside for recess. Make sure your children are bundled up appropriately for the weather. If your child is sick, make sure you go on line and send a note or send a written note when they come back to school. BE SURE to complete the health screener each day before your child comes to school. Also, to help speed up the car rider line, please have your child practice buckling and unbuckling themselves from their seats. When you have to stop, get out and help them it slows the drop off/dismissal process. We need to keep the traffic moving so the buses can get out of the parking lot.

Finally, as we enter this holiday month, please spend time with your children and family letting everyone know how important they are to you. Spend some time reconnecting with those you love, if only virtually. We need to make sure we are sharing the happiness with many during this difficult time. Have a wonderful holiday season and we will see you in January.



Ridgedale Elementary School

Volume 7 Issue 3  
December 2020

### 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

Return to school	12/3
First Day of Winter	12/21
Non-Traditional Learning Days	12/22-12/23
Winter Break	12/24-1/3
Scheduled Return to School	1/4



## News from Pre-K

Fall is finally (more consistently) upon us with cooler temperatures. Please remember to dress your kiddos appropriately as we will be going outside in chillier weather just to get some fresh air! We can't believe how quickly November has flown by and December is just around the corner! With upcoming breaks for holidays, try to keep a routine! Our classroom routines help us each day, as well as our visual schedule, to help us know what's coming next. The kids have been doing so great with wearing their masks, distancing, and practicing healthy habits. We cannot express enough how proud we are of them to adapt to these wild times! It was so nice to be able to talk to the parents who participated in parent-teacher conferences. We certainly love to hear how the kiddos are doing at home and, in turn, share with you what they're doing here. We hope you, as a family, enjoy completing the Seesaw activities as much as we enjoy viewing them and seeing your child's learning over time. Thank you for all you do for your kiddo to support their at-home learning. Happy Holidays and here's to 2021!



## News from Kindergarten

We would like to thank you again for your support and patience as we navigate teaching with COVID. The children seem to be adjusting well to this new normal.

Just a few reminders of concepts that are important to Kindergarten and need to be consistently practiced: upper and lower case letter recognition, letter sounds and counting by 1s and 10s. Be sure to write numbers to at least 20. Of course, reading to your child is always important and a great way to get in some snuggle time.

By now you have seen your child's report card. Keep in mind that new standards will be added to the report cards for Trimesters 2 and 3. Report cards are an ongoing and fluid. Expectations for your child's learning will be more rigorous as the year goes on. If you have any questions about your child's report card, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

As the weather gets colder, please dress your child accordingly. You may also want to send in an extra set of warm clothes for your child in a zip lock bag.

We wish your family a blessed holiday season filled with family, love, joy and of course your favorite holiday treats.



## News from First Grade

The First Grade Team is thankful for both students and parents! We appreciate you supporting your child with "At Home" Learning. We are grateful we were able to meet with students "In Person" during Term 1. If you have concerns or questions about your student's report card, please contact their teacher. Make sure you have joined "Remind" and have provided your email address to your assigned teacher.

We will begin Term 2 with remote learning. Here are some tips that may make "At Home" learning more productive:

- Review expectations and form a routine
- Choose a consistent space for learning (good lighting and quiet)
- Help students "own" their learning
- Encourage physical activity and breaks
- Help students set goals/time limits for completing tasks in manageable chunks

Please encourage your student to practice sight words and read daily. Besides MyOn, students can access books from resources such as storyline online, EPIC, and storytimefromspace.com. Read aloud to them and encourage them to read to you.



## News from Second Grade

Thank you for participating in the Parent-Teacher Conferences. Although they were a new format, they were very successful. In November, we took some time to reflect on the things we are thankful for. We also learned how to add and subtract two-digit numbers with and without regrouping. As we approach the holiday season, we will be exploring the ways in which other countries celebrate the holidays. We will continue to brush up on our math fact fluency, two-digit addition and subtraction skills, and learn more about three-digit numbers. Please continue to practice math facts and read as much as you can with your child.



## News from Third Grade

Students have been working very hard in third grade. We have been working on multiplication fact fluency in math. Please continue to remind your child to practice their facts daily. We will begin exploring place value over the month of December. Students will be using place value to round number, add and subtract, and multiply.

We will continue working on opinion writing. Students are encouraged to state their opinion, give a reason, example and restate their opinion. They will continue to become more familiar with the writing process to enhance writing skills.

In reading, students will continue to work on reading comprehension strategies. Hybrid students will be reading several stories in the Journeys series. Distance learners will continue to use the iReady reading curriculum to review reading standards.

Please make sure that your child is doing their best to complete all assignments on their at-home learning days. We are encouraged to get students outside and moving on days that the temperature is above 32 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately to participate in outside recess or activities.

*It's the most*   
**WONDERFUL**  
*time of the year!*

## News from Fourth Grade

The fourth grade teachers would like to let the students and parents know how pleased we are with the attitudes and procedures being displayed as we continually grow accustomed to this school year. Although it's not the ideal situation, students are doing a fabulous job with wearing masks and socially distancing as much as possible. Over the past several weeks, students have reviewed place value concepts in math and are currently focusing on understanding multiplication. As for reading, we have been discussing character traits and making inferences as well as reading the weekly stories. Grammatically, we're continuing to examine the different parts of speech with a focus on regular and irregular plural nouns. The focus in science thus far has been on the human machine or learning about how our body reacts to certain stimuli. In social studies has focused on voting and elections.

As we move through the next month, math will continue focusing on multiplication and division, more specifically factors and multiples. We will continue reading a weekly story from our Journey's reading book and reviewing a different skill weekly. Grammar's focus will shift back to nouns and the different types such as common and proper. Writing will continue to look at personal narratives and how to edit and revise. Science will cover the Earth's systems, such as rock formations and erosion. Social Studies will shift from elections and voting into government and democratic values/beliefs. Remember there are weekly assignments available in spelling and a test on Fridays. The students are also assigned Myon, iReady, and Must Do Math exercises that are routine and expected to be completed daily.



## News from Related Arts

Art Garvin, Mrs. Roskos & Coach Elliott would love to thank our kiddos & their loved ones for working so well virtually on their Related Arts e-learning assignments. It made us super happy to feel connected & see you learn virtually via FlipGrid, G-Meet, Pear Deck, and more!

We look forward to continuing to learn music, movement and visual arts together both online & on campus.

Despite COVID-19 we certainly hope that you find shiny ways to connect with your loved ones and enjoy the holidays. #ThrowDaleShineOnline

We love you so stay #MaskOn & #ChargerStrong!

## News from Fifth Grade

The fifth-grade team would like to recognize the fifth-grade students and families on their ongoing efforts to "mask up, wash up, and back up". You all are doing a wonderful job completing these procedures to keep us all safe and healthy while continuing your awesome learning! Continue completing assignments in class and through the Google Classroom. We are moving into multiplying and dividing decimals so continue practicing those multiplication facts in addition to what is being learned. We will move from decimals at the end of unit one to the study of fractions in unit two. Students are continuing their examination of the stories presented in their Journey's texts. The focus will continue with the main idea and detail, theme, character traits, focus on dialect and cause and effect with informational text. Students will continue their development of the writing process to include predictive writing, quotations and descriptions, and grammar. Continue reading at home practicing fluency, comprehension, and reading with purpose. We will work towards the study of the scientific method. Students enjoyed learning about the voting process and government as we continue to delve into social studies. Happy holidays from the fifth-grade team!



### TECH NEWS

The holidays are approaching! This means that there will be some scheduled days off as well as scheduled remote days (in addition to the already blended/distance models of learning). During this time, here a few reminders:

Find a safe place for your chromebook and charger. As new presents and items come into the house, make sure that your chromebook, case, and charger are put in a place that will be easily located and not mixed in with trash or items to be discarded. This also will help not only from things becoming lost, but will also keep it from being stepped on or items piled on top of it. We don't want any cracked screens.

Try to at least log on one or two times weekly during the breaks and then do a complete sign out/shutdown. This will allow chrome to get the updates during this time period. So even if you aren't doing anything on the device, just signing in and doing the shut down will help it keep working properly.

Remember to follow AUP expectations and behaviors such as avoiding liquids and food when using the chromebook. This will eliminate damage to the keys and possibility of internal damage.

Keep your battery healthy by: avoiding using the chromebook while it is charging, keep your battery above 10%, charge it completely (not just a few minutes here and there), and unplug the chromebook once it is fully charged (about 2 hours)—Don't keep it plugged in every night, all night long.

If you experience the chromebook not turning on, but know that it is fully charged, try resetting the battery. Sometimes, the battery needs a boost (especially if the above recommendations aren't followed), so hold down the refresh key (this is the circular arrow above the 4 key) and the power key at the same time for about 5 seconds. If the chromebook doesn't power on within a minute or so, repeat 2 or 3 more times. This will usually "wake" up the chromebook and it will be fine.

If you have problems with your chromebook, parents please send Ms. Tennant an email at [wendy.tennant@k12.wv.us](mailto:wendy.tennant@k12.wv.us). Please do not send it from the child's BOE gmail. The gmail account is not to be used as an email—this is used to log onto the chromebook and to share google material. Parents please use a good email in which you check often, so that questions and responses can be relayed to you in a timely manner.

**Have a safe and happy holiday season!**





## Ridgedale Shining Knights

### Kindergarten

Briar Linton  
Ava Warman  
Tanner Hurt  
Gia Evans

### First Grade

McKenzie Ridgeway  
Clarista Barnett  
Summerlee Hewitt  
Ryan Arthur

### Second Grade

Paxton Anderson  
Van Hewitt  
Max Cunningham  
James Bowen

### Third Grade

Jaeden McCauley  
Louis Slimak  
Aria Finley

### Fourth Grade

Ava Mason  
Tyler Davis  
Madilyn Heath  
Destinee Lake

### Fifth Grade

Peyton Yacup  
Ella Harris  
Avery Garvin  
Lucy Ice



## MOST IMPROVED ATTENDANCE

The following students have been recognized for most improved attendance for this year

Levi Nester  
Will Nester  
Cadence Phares



# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Even though school attendance is different this year, it is still very important that your child attend on their in-person days and sign-in when they are at home. The teachers document when they are “present” and when they are not. So please make every effort to get your child to engage and participate when scheduled (in-person or distant) so they don't miss out on any learning opportunities. If your child does miss an in-person day or does not sign-in when distant for a valid reason, it is very important to contact the school, send a note to the school, or go to the school's home page to submit a note on-line. Keeping in touch with the teachers and the school is essential as we all navigate through this school year and will help avoid attendance and possible truancy issues in the future.

**Cheryl Skeen**

**BUMFS Student Attendance**

**Sharon Petite**

**Principal**

**Amber Zackery**

**Assistant Principal**



# **PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

## **JUST A REMINDER!!**

Please submit an absence note when your child misses school (in-person or distant). Please call the school to report an absence, submit a note on-line from your school's website (preferred), or send a written note.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!**

Cheryl Skeen, Student Attendance Coordinator



# Home & School CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

December 2020

Monongalia County Schools Federal Programs

"Working Together For School Success"

## SHORT NOTES



### Active listening Listening challenge!

Ask your youngster to listen while you describe a recent meal in detail: "For breakfast, I had a fried egg, toast with peach jam, a Gala apple, and black coffee." Then ask questions like "How was my egg cooked?" and "What kind of apple did I eat?" Now he can give you a listening challenge.

### Keep germs away

When your child touches her face, she can transfer germs from her hands to her eyes, nose, and mouth. Help her touch it less often by keeping her hair trimmed and out of her eyes and having tissues available. If she wears face masks or glasses, make sure they fit properly so she's not constantly adjusting them.

### Practice being polite

Role-play to help your child remember his manners. Take turns naming situations where politeness is called for (introducing people, receiving a gift). The other person acts out how to handle it politely. Your youngster might pat his dog on the head, look you in the eye, and say: "Dad, I'd like you to meet Domino."

### Worth quoting

"It's easier to go down a hill than up it, but the view is much better at the top." *Henry Ward Beecher*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor?

**A:** Because it can't sit down.



## Wordplay boosts vocabulary

A rich vocabulary gives your child the words she needs to express her thoughts and understand her schoolwork. Try these playful activities to help her learn new words.

### Clever combinations

A *portmanteau* is a new word formed by blending two existing words (*jeans + leggings = jeggings*, *breakfast + lunch = brunch*). You and your youngster can make up portmanteaus for each other to guess. She might say, "What do you call a rainbow on a snowy day?" (A *snowbow*!) And you could ask, "What do you call a documentary that's comical?" (A *doccom*.)

### Words within words

Pick a word (say, *monitor*) for each family member to write on her paper. Set a timer for 5 minutes, and list words you can make using letters in the word. A fun twist: You may use any letter multiple times within the same word, so *mirror* is allowed even though *monitor* has only one R. When time's up, read



your lists aloud. Did anyone learn a new word from someone else's list?

### Synonym suns

Have your child draw a big sun on a sheet of paper and write a common word (say, *good*) in the center. Take turns adding a ray to the sun and writing a synonym (*excellent*, *great*). On your turns, try to choose words your youngster may not know, such as *stupendous*. When you can't think of more synonyms, start another sun with a new word. ♥

## Brighten someone's day

Sometimes the smallest gesture can make another person happy, especially in a difficult situation like the pandemic. Here are ways your youngster can add a little sunshine to others' lives:

- Let your child mail thank-you notes to your family's doctors and their staffs. He could also leave thank-yous for delivery-truck drivers, mail carriers, and trash and recycling workers.
- Suggest that your youngster host an online talent show. Relatives might sing or play musical instruments, dance, or do magic or card tricks for each other.
- Run errands for elderly neighbors. Your child could call to get their grocery list, then help you order the items or shop and deliver them. ♥



# How to handle cyberbullying

Many kids are spending more time using technology to do schoolwork and to socialize this year. That means more potential for cyberbullying. Share these strategies to help your youngster avoid it.

**Be informed.** Explain to your child that cyberbullying includes texting, chatting, or posting unkind or threatening messages. It's also cyberbullying to spread rumors, intimidate people, or share private information that would embarrass someone.



**React appropriately.** Does your youngster know what to do if he's cyberbullied? Talk frankly about tactics that help (telling an adult) and *don't* help (responding to the person doing the bullying). Together, learn how to take screenshots of texts or chats in case he needs proof of a cyberbullying incident.

**Provide guidance.** Set clear guidelines for your child's online behavior. For example, he shouldn't

send a message or photo to another child that he wouldn't want you or his teacher to see. It may be a good idea to point out that other kids and their parents can take screenshots, too.♥

## Signs of affection

Even when life gets hectic, remember to show your child on a daily basis that you love her. Simple words and actions like these will go a long way in making her feel loved and secure.

### Leave notes

Secretly leave a loving message in your youngster's "home office" or backpack. ("Have a great school day! Love, Dad.")



### Eat together

Plan special school-day breakfasts with your child. You'll connect before a busy day. Also, consider joining her for lunch on days when you're both home.

### Share photos

Look at old family photos with your youngster, or show her "on this day" pictures on social media or photo-sharing sites. Say what you loved about her then ("You were so little and cuddly") and what you love about her now ("I still love hugs from you—plus I love our interesting conversations").♥

**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## ACTIVITY CORNER

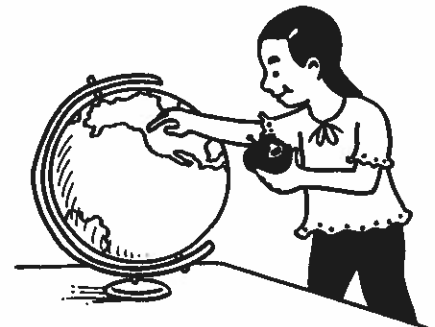
### Geography: Maps and more

Your youngster's day is filled with opportunities to explore geography. Here are three ideas.

**1. Food.** Ask your child to read stickers on fruits and vegetables you buy to find out where the food was grown. Together, look up the weather in those states or countries. She'll see what produce is grown in warmer or cooler temperatures.

**2. Mail.** Let your youngster check postmarks, find the locations on a map, and calculate how many miles the mail traveled to reach you.

**3. Time zones.** Plan a phone call with a relative who lives in a different time zone, and help your child look up the time there. Then, she could see what time it is in other places around the world.♥



## Q & A Doing well on tests

**Q:** My son struggled on his last two tests. How can I help him do better on future ones?

**A:** Test success begins with knowing the material. Have your child get in the habit of studying a little each evening rather than cramming the night before a test. Offer to help by quizzing him, or suggest that he make up—and take—his own quizzes.

On the morning of a test, remind your son to read the test directions

first and ask his teacher about anything he doesn't understand. You might recommend that he look over all the questions and start by tackling easier ones. That will give him some momentum and boost his confidence.

Finally, encourage your child to be the "boss" of his thoughts. If he thinks, "I can't do this," he can take a few deep breaths and instead think, "I studied hard and I will do my best."♥



# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Monongalia County Schools  
Title I Parent Involvement

## Help your elementary schooler use six strategies to learn from reading

As your child progresses in school, she will need strong reading skills to excel in every subject. To help your child get the most out of what she reads, encourage her to:

- 1. Look through the text,** noting interesting details, illustrations and charts.
- 2. Summarize what she reads** using her own words.
- 3. Ask herself,** "What is the main idea of this passage?"
- 4. Review key words** and terms. She should pay attention to words that are in bold or italics.
- 5. Consider the purpose** of the reading. Why does your child think the author chose to write about this?
- 6. Wonder aloud.** Does a plot in a novel remind your child of a historical event she's learned about? What does your child think about what she learned?



### Review language with word games

It's much easier to remember grammar rules if you use them often. Playing word games with you is a fun way for your child to do this. Here are some examples:

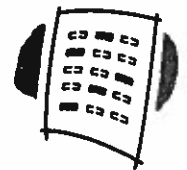
- **Take turns thinking of adjectives** that describe something, such as a rainy day. You might choose *wet*, *misty*, *damp* or *overcast*. How many can your child think of?
- **Use the pronouns *I*, *me*, *we* and *us*** in sentences. Have one person say a sentence, and the other guess if it's grammatically correct. For example, "My friends and *I* will go together" is correct. "My friends and *me* will go together" is not.
- **Define prefixes and suffixes** (the beginnings and ends of words). For example, the prefix *non* means "not," as in *nonstop*. The suffix *ful*, means "having," as in *healthful*.

### Practice reading before tests

To succeed on tests, children must comprehend what they read. Even math tests involve reading instructions and questions.

To help your child prepare for tests:

- **Boost reading skills** whenever possible. Read together daily. Introduce your child to new words.
- **Review schoolwork directions carefully.** What words are used often? Help your child practice following complex directions.



### Graphic organizers get to the point

Graphic organizers are diagrams that help kids think about what they read. Draw a large star with five points. Have your child write the title of a story he has read in the center. Then, in the points of the star, he can use information from the reading to answer *who*, *what*, *when*, *where* and *why*. He'll have a clearer picture of what he's read in no time!



### Make time to cook and read!

To get your child excited about reading, try cooking together. Appoint your child your kitchen helper and:

- **Take turns** reading a recipe aloud.
- **Have him make** a grocery list of the ingredients you need.
- **Cook and enjoy** the meal together. Then, read a book related to the type or style of food you made.



## Ask your child to be your family's 'reference librarian'

Give your child practice searching for and finding accurate information online. Make it fun by asking her a series of questions and challenging her to find the answers.



Get started with questions like these:

- **Who was the first astronaut** to walk on the moon? What else happened on that space mission?
- **What was the largest dinosaur** that ever lived? Where did it live?
- **What happens if people** don't get enough sleep?

Remember to adjust your questions to match your child's interests and ability. When your child finds the information you requested, say, "I'm impressed. Tell me where you found that information." Talk about ways to tell if a source is reliable.

## Build your child's vocabulary to boost reading comprehension

Having a large vocabulary helps children understand what they read. They don't have to stop reading to figure out a word's definition and they can focus on the meaning of the entire passage.

To boost vocabulary:

1. **Provide simple definitions.**  
When defining *curious*, say, "A *curious* person is eager to learn more."
2. **Give relatable examples.**  
"When that big box arrived in the mail, you were *curious* about what was inside."
3. **Ask your child for examples.**  
"Can you think of someone who was *curious*?" "
4. **Keep using the new word.**  
"I'm *curious* about countries in South America. Let's do some research."



**Q:** My third grader has always enjoyed reading, but lately she has begun to complain about books being "boring." What can I do to make sure she doesn't lose interest?

**A:** Your child may be bored because she is choosing books that are too easy. Many third graders can handle increasingly intricate story lines. Help her find books on topics that interest her and that include some challenging words. Ask your child's teacher for recommendations.

## Suggest graphic novels

Graphic novels offer more than just entertainment. Many address relevant and complex social issues. They cover diverse genres of literature, like mystery, fantasy and historical fiction.



Ask the teacher to suggest one your child might enjoy.

## For lower elementary readers:

- **Pluto Visits Earth** by Steve Metzger. When Pluto finds out that astronomers have renamed him a dwarf planet, he gets upset and travels to Earth to demand that he be a real planet again.
- **Who Wants a Tortoise?** by Dave Keane. What do you do when you want a puppy for your birthday—and get a tortoise instead?



## For upper elementary readers:

- **Mr. Ferris and His Wheel** by Kathryn Gibbs Davis. See the inspiration that led George Ferris to create the Ferris wheel, which amazed audiences at the 1893 World's Fair.
- **Love, Amalia** by Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel M. Zubizarreta. Amalia has a very special relationship with her Abuelita. Abuelita always knows the right thing to say and do, no matter what Amalia is feeling.

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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