



The Berry Bulletin

Parent Issue 6

February 5, 2023

Learn • Lead • Achieve



February



PTO Candy Grams for Sale
\$1 each through February 8th

February 6 – 10th

National School Counselor Week

February 9th and 10th

First Grade In-House Field Trip

February 15th

Primary Awards Assembly (K-2)

9:45AM

PTO Meeting: 6:30PM Library

Speaker: Mrs. Clements – Math

February 16th

Intermediate Awards Assembly (3-5)

9:45AM

February 17th – Early Dismissal

February 20th – President's Day

Schools Closed

February 23rd –

Parent Involvement Day

RSVP to join your child at lunch



Principal's Message

February is here and the month is packed with opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the many efforts of our staff and students. Equally, we are excited to observe Black History Month with special readings, visual displays, as well as special guests to celebrate the achievements of key figures both past and present. Please check-out the monthly summary for upcoming events as well as special recognitions. Please join us in giving a special shout-out to our amazing school counselor, Mrs. Rubain as we celebrate National School Counselor Week this week.

I am frequently asked about the opportunity to volunteer at the school or to simply be more involved as a parent. First, please consider attending a monthly PTO meeting. This month, PTO is on Wednesday, February 15th featuring our Instructional Specialist, Mrs. Clements. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the survey in the link and you will be contacted for upcoming opportunities. Our community is our BEST resource! <https://forms.office.com/r/1S0dwXdrLk>

From Assistant Principal Mrs. Proctor:

As we begin the 3rd quarter, we would like to encourage and remind all students to do their best every day to follow our 3 R's: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and READY to Learn.

As the weather is changing, please make sure your child has weather appropriate outerwear for recess. I would be happy to receive slightly worn or unused clothes, socks, and shoes, donated to Berry E.S., to use for our students.

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles - please contact Mrs. Proctor, AP, if you are interested in volunteering time to assist us during the school day with monitoring students at lunch, recess, transitions, and bathroom traffic.

Our CCBOE website has a link for chaperones/volunteers. Most applicants receive approval within a few days.

<https://www2.ccboe.com/survey2/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/156798&lang=en&newtest=Y>

Mrs. Proctor is working with and always seeking community businesses and organizations interested in partnering with Berry Elementary, who are willing to make small contributions of time, materials, mentoring and monetary donations to the success of our students. Thank You for supporting our staff and students!

Thank you for supporting our students and staff!

From Assistant Principal Mr. Hill

In efforts to keep both our students and staff safe, we will continue conducting our safety drills during the month of February. We will have a secure drill (February 7), lockdown drill (February 9), Shelter in Place (February 15) and evacuation drill (February 22, weather permitting). NOTE: All scheduled drills are subject to change.

We follow **Standard Response Protocol** which is a countywide adopted program that provides a uniform, planned, and practiced response to any incident is the foundation of a safe school.

The SRP's development is ever-evolving, created with extensive collaboration between experts such as first responders, public safety, school, districts, and communities. Its tactics are data-driven, researched and based on experience and contemporary practices. As shared earlier this year, you can see the specifics of each safety-drill at our CCPS Safety and Security site.

<https://www.ccboe.com/quick-links/safety-and-security>

One School

One Community

February Acknowledgments

Black History Month

Core Essential: RESPECT
2nd Quarter Awards Assembly
Parent Involvement Day

One Book One Berry
The Mouse and the Motorcycle



Grade Level Updates: Pre-K – 5th Grade

Pre-K

What we are learning this month:

Language and Literacy- Rhyme recognition, beginning sounds, blending & segmenting onset-rime, isolating medial sounds, adding & deleting phonemes, and written letter recognition.

Math- Understanding number lines, what number comes next, what number is one more than a given number.

Also, we are continuing with adding and subtracting up to 10.

Science- Exploring and learning about light and how shadows are created.

Social Studies- Exploring the different emotions/feelings we have. Sharing what makes us feel the different emotions, and ways we can overcome when we feel sad, angry, or worried.

Up-coming events:

Information will be sent home about our plans for a Valentine's/Friendship Day celebration and card exchange.

Reminders:

Please make sure children have weather appropriate clothing for outdoors.

Kindergarten

Foundational Skills: Letters E,X,Z,Q Sight Words-some, have, get, up, little; Identify medial and final sounds in words, blend phonemes into words, and onset & rime.

Reading: Illustrations, main topic and key ideas, compare and contrast stories

Math: Counting, recording, and making sets to 20; Identify, build, and compare 2D & 3D Shapes

Upcoming Events:

100th Day of School- Dress up like your 100 years old!

Valentines Day- Students may send in valentine cards

Project Lead The Way- Students investigate pushes and pulls on the motion of an object and develop knowledge and skills related to forces of differing strengths and directions. Their explorations include pushes and pulls found in their everyday world, such as pushing a friend on a swing or pulling a wagon. In this module's design problem, Suzi needs to move rocks from her yard so she can install a swing set. Students work through the problem by applying what they learn about forces.

Reminders: Continue to read at home and practice sight words each evening! Please be sure that your child has a change of clothes at school for accidents.

1st Grade

Reading Focus – identifying and using text features, main topic, key details, retelling stories and describing characters, setting and major events

Math Focus – add and subtract multiples of ten, representing base ten structure of numbers to 99, comparing 2-digit numbers, representing two-digit numbers in different ways,

Reminders:

100th day projects due Friday, February 3rd

Headphones – please make sure your child has working headphones or earbuds to use in class.

Snack - Afternoon snacks should not include nuts or nut butters, should be quick and not messy. Some suggestions for snacks – Veggie sticks, crackers, cheese stick, granola bar, pretzels, dried fruit, bag of dry cereal

If you would like to send in Valentine's with your child, please send one for each student in class.

2nd Grade

Second grade is roaring into the 3rd quarter. We are reading about weather with both fiction and nonfiction stories. We are using sources to answer questions in our writing. In Math we are using three-digit numbers, focusing on place value and comparisons. Science is all about the Water Cycle and Social Studies helps us learn about interactions with the environment. We will be celebrating the 100th day. The highlight of February will be our Black History Wax Museum where everyone will research and “become” an important figure of history.

3rd Grade

This month third graders will build their knowledge about animal behavior, with a focus on the nonfiction genre. We will read texts about the behaviors and characteristics that animals use to survive. In Math, students will learn about and use the relationship between multiplication and division, place value understanding and the properties of operations to multiply and divide whole numbers within 100. We will also represent and solve two-step word problems using the four operations. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

4th Grade

As we move into third quarter, we will be focusing on teaching the standard algorithm for adding and subtracting. We will continue to practice the reading standards through various texts. Please be mindful & check synergy for updated grades to avoid scrambling before report cards. Per CCPS policy, grades are updated every 2-weeks. Interims also serve as the mid-quarter time to share your child’s performance level.

Please remind your student that they must wear their coat throughout the entirety of recess. Health and safety are a priority especially as the weather can be unpredictable during the winter months. Lastly, please stress the importance of your child keeping their hands to themselves & practicing self-control. Our school PBIS focus is based on the 3 R’s: Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn.

We have a field trip coming up in March to the science center, please let your child’s teacher know if you are interested in chaperoning.

5th Grade

What we are learning:

Reading: We are reading informational texts to explain relationships or interactions between 2 or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in historical, scientific, or technical texts.

Writing: We are writing narratives this month.

Math: We will continue to work with multi-digit multiplication and division.

Social Studies: We are reading and learning about urbanization, industrialization, and immigration.

Upcoming Events:

- Classes will send home a newsletter about a Valentine’s Day Card Exchange, please look for that info.
- 5th grade plans to attend Mount Vernon on March 8, 2023 (if approved). Once we have approval, permission slips will go home. We will need 5 chaperones for each class. Please make sure those who are willing to chaperone complete the volunteer process and get approved.

Reminders:

Please have your child bring their winter jacket each day. We will have outdoor recess unless it is raining, snowing or below 32 degrees.

Instructional Specialist for Math – Mrs. Clements

Winter is upon us and there is time for lots of indoor activities. Many parents want to know how they can help their child be successful in math. One great way parents can help at home is by helping their students learn their basic facts! Many parents like to use flash cards at home with their child. Some other ways you can use flash cards at home are:

- Split the cards into two piles. Each player flips over the top card and says the product (or sum). The player with the greatest product (or sum) takes both the cards.
- Pick a fact card and make up a word problem to go with it.
- Sort facts into two piles. The first pile is math facts with a product of less than 20 and the second pile is facts with a product greater than 20.
- Spread out fact cards on a table. Say a sum or product and have your child pick out a matching fact.
- Use household items to help solve facts like cereal, dry pasta, Legos, or small toys.

Any questions or concerns I can be contacted at aclements@cboe.com

Reading Resource Teacher – Mrs. DeAtley

I hope everyone is enjoying some family literacy time while reading **The Mouse and the Motorcycle** together.

10 Benefits of Reading Aloud to Children

- Builds vocabulary
- Improves reading comprehension
- Promotes empathy
- Reduces stress
- Boosts brain development
- Exposes children to different experiences
- Increases chances of later success
- Helps develop communication skills

Mark you calendar for Friday March 3rd to attend an evening celebration of **Mouse and the Motorcycle**!

Learning Resource Teacher – Mrs. Fenton

February is a quiet month for testing, as our ESOL students finish their ACCESS for ELLs assessments. However, parents/guardians of all of our first through fifth graders can expect to see iReady home reports, for both reading and math, coming home in their students' folders. Please take the time to review the iReady information and contact your child's homeroom teacher with any questions.

The students in our enrichment/ gifted reading and math clusters are well into the third quarter curriculum. Be sure to ask your student about what he/she is reading this week and the skills that are being taught in math. If you have concerns about the level of instruction your child is receiving, please schedule a conference with your child's teacher.

Counselor Corner – Mrs. Rubain

The school year is flying by so quickly. We are enjoying watching your children grow and blossom.

The **primary students** are currently receiving a guidance lesson that focuses safety - "Good touch/Bad touch."

The **intermediate students** will be receiving lessons focused on college, career and setting goals. During the lessons, I will also remind students about certain violent words that should never be used in school.

Unfortunately, we have experienced an uptick of students utilizing language that is violent in nature. Please have a conversation with your child about the importance of not using this type of language in school.

You will be receiving details about our upcoming Career Day that will be held in May. Please consider joining us and sharing information with our students about your career!

Special Areas

Physical Education – Mr. Caballero and Mr. Rickett

Intermediate – We are finishing up our Basketball unit and starting the “Fitnessgram.”

Primary – We are finishing ball skills (passing and dribbling) and starting parachute.

Art – Ms. Gore and Ms. Chaffers

Ms. Gore

Kindergarten- Alphabet book

1st grade- ROYGBIV + color mixing

5th - Perspective

Ms. Chaffers

Pre-K

Students will continue to explore various Art experiences with a variety of materials.

2nd Grade

Students are learning how to draw a face using realistic facial proportions. They are exploring the drawings of Charles White to learn more about “realism”.

3rd Grade

Students will be examining the art of Faith Ringold to inspire the creation of a multi-media composition.

4th Grade

Students will be completing their preparation for a required test in Visual Art. Students have been learning primarily about Color Theory.

5th Grade

Students will be learning about the tradition of Kente Cloth weaving from Ghana, West Africa. Students will weave their own miniature textiles using yarn and a cardboard loom.

Science – Ms. Freeman and Ms. Fryer

Ms. Freeman

In 3rd grade science, we are finishing our severe weather unit by a STEM project involving constructing houses and making adjustments to help protect them from a wind storm. Following that we will begin our unit on fossils! Students will make observations of real fossils, complete a "fossil dig" and make a simulated fossil to take home. Exciting times in science!

Ms. Fryer

In 4th Grade Science we will be finishing up our unit on Energy Transfer and starting a unit on Renewable and Non-renewable Energy Resources. This will include labs and activities investigating how we are using Energy Resources on Earth and how we can conserve.

In 5th Grade Science we will be finishing up our unit on Earth’s Spheres and begin to prepare for the Maryland State MISA test which will be administered in March to all grade 5 students in the state. I will be sending an email soon with information regarding , practice websites and review materials for your child.

Music – Ms. Grebe and Ms. Hill

Ms. Grebe

Welcome to a new month in Mrs. Grebe's Music class! This month, we will be celebrating Black History month by exploring the significant and historical evolution of music due to African influence. Some of the musicians we will be studying more in depth include, but are not limited to: Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, Hazel Scott, Big Mama Thornton, Chuck Berry, Etta James, Ella Fitzgerald, Marian Anderson, Bo Diddley, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Trombone Shorty and Tina Turner. Students will be analyzing compositions, observing performances, and reading about the lives of these influential musicians. In the words of Hugh Masekela, "I've got to where I am in life not because of something I brought to the world but through something I found - the wealth of African culture."

Ms. Hill

In the month of February, Ms. Hill's music classes will be continuing to strengthen our previously learned skills with rhythm, solfege, and the treble clef. Some of the activities may include review games or playing on the bells. Each new week I will introduce a new African American jazz musician to teach the kids about their contribution to jazz music today. We will listen to and watch them perform some of their most famous tunes!

Computers – Ms. Carrington

- 3rd - 5th Grades: How to Prepare a PowerPoint for Black History Month and present their Power Presentation to their classmates as a Learning tool to Public Speaking
- Students will learn how to Insert, Design, Transitions, Animations, and run a Slide Show.
- Students will learn how to toggle back and forth between Researching via Google and Wikipedia while preparing their PowerPoint Presentations.
- Pre-K: Gracie's Corner Colors, Phonics, Counting to 100 Learning Various Educational Songs as we will be learning how to use a computer and a mouse.
- Kindergarten thru 2nd grade: Students will sign into Office 365 Username and Passwords to utilize Typing Club/Nitro Typing Learning, the Home Roll (Left hand ASDF Right hand JKL) and various Educational Online Games.

Please remember to stay connected with Berry at:



Instagram

Berryjaguars22



Facebook

Berry Elementary School



Twitter

@berryjaguar

[HOME - Berry Elementary School \(ccboe.com\)](http://ccboe.com)



School Website

****Volunteer and Parent Survey Below****



FAQ's

- **Can I Volunteer?**

YES – In school, on Field Trips, Special Events, and other occasions – WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS. Use this link to go through a quick Security check to clear you for the '22 – '23 school year.

<https://www2.ccboe.com/survey2/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/156798&lang=en&newtest=Y>

How can I be used as a volunteer?

- Reading/Math Buddy
- Teacher Help
 - Work with a small group
 - Laminating/Cutting
 - Lunch monitor
 - Recess monitor
 - Hallway monitor
 - Help in Special Area classes (Art, PE, Music, Band, Computers, Library)
 - Special Events supervision and support
 - Field Trips

Share Your Ideas! <https://forms.office.com/r/1S0dwXdrLk>

- **What's the cut-off time to pick up my child during school hours?**

You must sign out your child by 3PM or you must wait until dismissal.

- **Can I bring in birthday treats for my child's birthday?**

Yes! However, the treat must be for the whole class. Additionally, each treat must be individually wrapped with the ingredients listed. With severe allergies and nutritional exceptions for so many students, we cannot risk a medical emergency by not following these guidelines.

Please no latex balloons. We have two SEVERE latex allergies. Even the airborne presence of latex can cause a medical emergency.

- **Can I come to school and eat lunch with my child?**

No. Currently, we are still operating on a student-only lunch room. However, we have implemented a Parent Involvement Day that serves as a day that a parent can have lunch with their child. The next special day is February 23rd. Thank You for your understanding.

Important Car Rider Information

In order to assure a safe, efficient, and well-structured arrival and dismissal please follow the following procedures and guidelines:

- Bus service is available to all students. The long car line is due to not utilizing our CCPS bus transportation. Please consider allowing your child to ride the bus. That is the #1 contributing factor to long lines.
- Please remain in one line of traffic. Do not try and go around a vehicle unless a staff member is directing you to do so.
- Please stay in your car as your child is exiting your vehicle in the AM or PM. We have staff to help with doors and see their safe exit/entry to the vehicle.
- Parents **SHOULD NOT** be parking and allowing their child to walk through the parking lot. This is a major safety hazard and the school is not liable for any accident due to negligence of our car rider procedures.
- Parents **SHOULD NOT** be walking up to get their child from the car rider line at the end of the day. Stay in your car and follow the protocol to assure a safe and orderly dismissal. Or, use the bus.
- When picking up your child, please have your car tag visible for teachers to see.

Please remember we try our very best to assure that arrival and dismissal is a smooth process for everyone. There are 6-8 staff available to help with car riders. At times, students require 1:1 support and we may not always have all 6-8 staff members each day. We move swiftly and ask that your child is ready to exit the car. If your child needs extra time, is having an emotional morning, or there are other challenges, please park and attend to your child and re-enter the line when your child is ready. We are a large elementary school with many young students and need to accommodate everyone equally ensuring that we follow the CCPS safety regulations and guidelines.

Thank You!