



The Berry Bulletin

Parent Issue 7

March 3, 2023

Learn • Lead • Achieve



March



3/3 **Read Across Charles County**
Family Night – One Book One Berry 6

3/6 – 3/10 **4th Grades to J.E.R**
Science Center

3/8 **5th Grade Field Trip - Mt. Vernon**
Arrive at 7:45AM Depart at 8:00AM

3/9 **2-hour Early-Dismissal**

3/10 **Breakfast with Buddies**
PTO sponsored event

3/15 **PTO meeting**
6:30PM School Library

3/25 **4th and 5th Grade Math Teams**
Elementary Math Challenge

3/27 **Third Marking Period Ends**

3/28 **2-hour Early Dismissal**

One School

One Community

March Acknowledgements

Core Essential: Forgiveness

Women's History Month and
American Irish Heritage Month

3rd Quarter Ends – March 27th

March 31st is the last day of school before
CCPS Spring Break (4/1 – 4/10).



Principal's Message

Greetings Berry Families,

I am reminded how fast this year is flying by every time I sit to write this newsletter. We are embarking the most busy time of year as we prepare for testing, Field Trips, fun school events, and of course our final quarter of the school year.

The 3rd quarter ends on March 27th and 4th quarter begins on the March 28th.

Please remember that April 1st through April 10th is Spring Break for all of CCPS. Students and teachers will return on April 11th. Our school and offices will be closed for the entire break.

Whether your child is in Pre-K or 5th grade, the next couple months brings a myriad of testing and assessments. These assessments are either state-mandated or CCPS-based and help gather data for our student's achievement. Please see the update from Mrs. Fenton (Learning Resource Teacher) below with our detailed testing schedule as well as a link to help provide some practice tests that familiar both students AND parents. We want our students to feel confident and prepared as they face their assessments. It is important to make note of your child's testing days. Students should make an effort to get a good night's sleep (shut devices down and go to bed), have a healthy breakfast, and to come to school with a positive attitude and growth mindset that they WILL do the best they can!

Our community continues to show up and participate in our school events. We had a successful "Parent Engagement Lunch" day in February. We also welcomed several guest readers for Read Across Charles County. Also, our Mouse and the Motorcycle Family Night was another success with about 45 families coming to show support for our school-wide reading initiative.

PTO continues to serve and offer opportunity for our families and students. Our "Breakfast with Buddies" was an awesome way to start the day with about 115 parents signed up to join their student with some pastries, fruit, juice, and conversation. We are so appreciative of all the support!

Save the Date! If you want to mark your calendar now, we are scheduling our 3rd Quarter Primary (grades K-2) Awards on April 20th and our Intermediate (grades 3-5) Awards on April 21st. They will both **begin at 10AM**, but please **arrive starting after 9:30AM** to help the arrival and sign-in process.

For those that have returned the survey to help at the school as a Volunteer, you will be hearing from Mrs. Wanda Proctor (AP) for upcoming opportunities. We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Ms. LeighAnn McLaud

Grade Level Updates:

Pre-K

March will be filled with lots of learning and exploring of museums and collections. We will learn what museums are, what they have inside them, who works there, and how they work.

March Studies/Focuses

Our Social studies focus this month is Dinosaurs! We will learn about dinosaurs, fossils, artifacts and paleontology. We think this unit is going to be a favorite!

Our Science study this month is comparing. We will explore items and look for the similarities and differences, such as, same and different colors, heights, and sizes of different collections.

Our Math focus this month is patterns. We will identify patterns, complete patterns, create patterns and maybe even grow patterns.

Our Literacy focus this month will be on functional and environmental print.

Also, we will continue exploring letters and beginning sounds of words as we create exhibits, collections, signs and captions for our class museum.

Other focuses for the month include expressing art skills as we create in art and sing and dance in music.

We will continue working on strengthening our small motor skills and hand eye coordination with cutting, tracing, writing, and putting together/taking apart with small manipulatives.

We have plenty of fun games planned for our large motor skills as well as activities like a dinosaur march, dinosaur egg hunt, and more. March is going to be busy, but fun, as always in Pre-K!

Kindergarten

Sight Words: we, said, was, if, want, do

Initial and final blends: cl, fl, st, nd

Digraphs: sh & ch

Ask and answer questions about key ideas in a text. Name the author and illustrator and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text. Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

Math Focus-

Counting to 90. Composing shapes by putting together small shapes. Use positional words such as above, below, beside to describe objects in an environment. Adding and subtracting within 10 using equations. Composing and decomposing numbers to 10.

Reminders-

Please make sure that your child can independently use their user name and password to log into Studentview to use Dreambox and Waggle. The students are asked to log into these applications in class and at home. Your child may bring in their own headphones to use at school.

1st Grade

Permission slips for our Maryland Science Center field trip on April 13th have gone home. Please make sure money, permission slips, and lunch forms are completed and turned in by Friday March

24th. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions. If you marked that you are interested in chaperoning for the trip your child's teacher will be in touch with you soon.

Reading Focus – Identify main topic, retell details in a text, describe characters, setting and major events using key details and illustrations. Determine and clarify information in a text by asking and answering questions.

Math Focus- Using place value understanding and properties of operations to add within 100.

Snacks – We do have a snack time in the afternoon. Please pack a healthy snack for your child daily.

Have an wonderful and safe month!

2nd Grade

Second grade is leaping into March.

We will be reading autobiographies and then information about plants. We are writing an imaginative essay that has been fun. Telling time and counting money will keep us busy in Math. We continue with the economy in Social Studies and learn about landforms in Science. We have grown so much in getting ready for third grade!

3rd Grade

Third grade students will develop an understanding of fractions as numbers and of fraction equivalence by representing fractions on diagrams and number lines, generating equivalent fractions and comparing fractions. Students will build their knowledge about people who make their communities better and stronger, with a focus on the narrative nonfiction genre. We will read texts about individuals and groups that make a difference in their local or global communities.

4th Grade – No update

5th Grade

Literacy- We will be learning about point of view and comparing & contrasting characters, setting, and events, or stories of the same genre.

Math- We will be learning about decimals- comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.

Social Studies- We will continue learning about urbanization, industrialization, and immigration.

Health- We will be learning about the dangers of drugs.

Reminders/Notes- Field trip to Mt. Vernon is Wednesday, March 8th. Don't forget a lunch and drink (no glass bottles), dress for the weather and for walking, and arrive at Berry at 7:45am.

MISA (science test) is this month. Get plenty of sleep, eat a good meal, be ready, and do your best!

Special Areas –

Library/Media – Mrs. Warman-Johnson

We are bringing Spring to the library this March! All primary students will read about how things grow and participate in lots of activities including planting a “class pet plant”. Intermediate students will work on their research skills, internet safety, create projects for Women’s History Month and create Spring themed crafts. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will learn more about the letters of the alphabet and practice skills such as cutting/gluing, following directions, tracing, etc. First through fifth grade will learn more about alphabetical order and the Dewey Decimal System and how those skills can help them find things in the library. Students will also have lots of chances to read in the library and participate in March Beanstack challenges!

Science – Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Fryer

Grade 5 Science:

March is a very busy month for Fifth Grade in Science! The MISA test is scheduled for the third week in March. We have been reviewing in class with the MISA Review Packets sent home a few weeks ago and we will take a practice test before the assessment. Please continue to encourage your child to review the materials and prepare for this important assessment. We are also investigating Food Chains and Food Webs, Photosynthesis, and will be starting our Space Unit this month as well!

Grade 4 Science:

In March, Fourth Grade Science students will be investigating Natural Resources, including Renewable Resources such as wind or solar power, and Nonrenewable Resources such as fossil fuels. We will also begin investigating Waves including the properties of waves and the creation of waves.

Grade 3 Science:

Third grade science: February's fossils have guided us into March's traits. We will learn about how traits are inherited from the parents. Students will simulate bird beaks to determine what foods different beaks can pick up. Other lessons will include analyzing benefits of animals living in groups for survival, designing a fish with adaptations to help survival, and determining how animals could look in the future (designer dogs).

Art –

Ms. Chaffers

Pre-K

Students will continue to explore various Art experiences with a variety of materials. Children’s literature is utilized to introduce various concepts and themes.

2nd Grade

Students will continue their exploration of Realism to learn how to draw a person with correct proportions.

3rd Grade

Students will continue their exploration of the art of Faith Ringgold along with aspects of architecture to create a cityscape.

4th Grade

Students have completed the Visual Art test required by CCPS. They will expand their exploration of Color Theory by creating a multi-media composition utilizing paper weaving.

5th Grade

Students have been learning about various weaving traditions around the world. After creating their own pattern based on stripes, they will weave their own miniature textiles using yarn and a cardboard loom.

Computers – Ms. Carrington

Objective: Students will Learn how Google PBS Kids Pre-K- 2nd Grades Discover Educational Online Games/ Discovery Education Via Clever

Warm up: In Office 365 Typing Club/ Nitro Typing Via Clever to Teach 3rd through 5th Grades Learning the Home Row A, S, D, F, J, K, L ;

Objective: Students will learn How to Prepare a PowerPoint for Women’s History Month and Learn how to play the Game of Jeopardy

- To Teach Students how to save a PowerPoint to their file in Office 365 and EMAIL their PowerPoints to Ms. Carrington for review: Students will be Presenting their Power Presentation to their classmates as a Learning tool to Public Speaking
- Students will learn how to Insert, Design, Transitions, Animations, run a Slide Show, Students will Prepare and Present their PowerPoints to their classmates as we will all learn together Leading Learning and Achieving.
- Students will learn how to toggle back and forth between Researching via Google and Wikipedia while Preparing their PowerPoint Presentations. Ms. Carrington will be Printing the PowerPoints out in Color to hang on her Bulletin Board outside the computer lab for viewing.

PE – Mr. Cabllero and Mr. Rickett

Primary: Students will be introduced to techniques of jumping rope.

Intermediate: Students will working on crossing the midline by working on the “X” pattern in juggling. They will also begin the jump rope unit.

Student Services – Mrs. Rubain, School Counselor

The Just Say No Club is hosting a toiletry drive to support a local shelter and we need your help! We are collecting the following items (travel size): soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, and small travel size toys for children. The drive started February 27th and will continue through March 24th. There will be a small treat for the class who donates the most items.

We would like to invite you to participate in our **Career Day**. It is scheduled for **Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 10:00 am - 3:30 p.m.** This College and Career Day will be an opportunity for students to meet working professionals and learn about different careers. **Please RSVP by Friday, April 21, 2023 by completing the <https://forms.office.com/r/PMH9Fzucfg>.** We will contact all participants with additional information, including tips for Career Day speakers.

Instructional Leadership Team

Mrs. Fenton – Learning Resource Teacher

March begins a busy testing season! Our fifth graders will kick off state testing with the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) on March 15th and 16th. Then, after spring break, students in grades 3-5 will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) tests in English/language arts and mathematics. While students will be working hard during school hours to prepare for these assessments, you can support them at home using practice tests found [here](#). Not only do these tests show model questions, but students can practice using the different online tools that are available during testing, too. Additionally, you may wish to purchase wired headphones for your student to use during testing. Bluetooth devices are not allowed. Headphones will be provided for students who do not have their own set.

3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
MCAP ELA 4/24, 4/26-4/28	MCAP ELA 4/24, 4/26-4/28	MISA 3/15 and 3/16
MCAP Math 5/8-5/11	MCAP Math 5/8-5/11	MCAP ELA 4/17-4/20
		MCAP Math 5/1-5/4

Our fifth-grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in the annual Maryland School Survey during the month of March. This survey will ask students questions regarding our school climate. Parents/Guardians should have already received a letter explaining the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Fenton at jfenton@ccboe.com.

Mrs. Amy Clements - Instructional Specialist

For the month of March students will be competing in the Dreambox March Madness Bracket Challenge. The class with the highest percentage of students meeting their weekly goal will move on to the next round similar to March Madness. Prizes will be given to the top 5 Primary and Intermediate classes at the end of the month. The best way to help your Jaguar contribute to the contest is to make sure they complete a minimum of 5 weekly lessons in Dreambox for the month of March. If you have any questions, please contact me aclements@ccboe.com

Mrs. Jen DeAtley – Reading Resource Teacher

Reading is not only being able to decode and “say” the words but it is also about creating meaning from the text.

Proficient readers use various strategies before, during and after reading to create meaning.

Use the strategy guide below to foster conversations with your children about the books they are reading

Before Reading

Thinking about the title and/or topic will allow the reader to warm up and be ready to construct meaning while reading

- Preview the text (Read the little, table of contents, chapter headings, and look at pictures)
- Think about what you already know about the topic
- Make a prediction
- Set a purpose for reading What do you want to find out? Why do you want to read this text?

During Reading

Discussion during reading helps to monitor and improve comprehension

Stop at various points in the text to:

- Summarize what has been read
- Discuss new vocabulary
- Confirm your prediction / make a new one
- Discuss story elements – characters, setting, problem, solution
- Make connections between what was read and your prior knowledge

After Reading

Students should be able to answer questions using evidence or support from the text. Questions to ask:

- What is the main idea?
- Summarize the text.
- What did you learn about _____ ?
- Who else might want to read this book and why?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- What was the setting of the story? Was the setting important to the events that happened?
- Were the illustrations helpful to you? How?
- Was the title appropriate? Why or why not?
- Could the story have ending differently? How so?

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