



The Berry Bulletin

Parent Issue 6

February 2024

Learn • Lead • Achieve



February



- 2/16: Two-hour early dismissal
African American Read-In (AARI)
- 2/19: Presidents Day
Schools and offices closed.
- 2/20: CCPS BHM Panel Discussion
6-7:30PM St. Charles High School
<https://www.ccboe.com/about/public-info-media/details/~board/press-releases/post/black-history-month-panel-discussion-set-for-feb-20>
- 2/23: BHM Living Museum
Hosted by 2nd Grade
- 2/26: Interims issued
Read Across America - Kick Off!
- 2/26 - 2/29: Bunkyo University Visit

"One Book One Berry" begins March 1st



Principal's Message

Our Berry students have been in school for over 100 days already! Tuesday, February 6th marked the infamous "100th Day of School" and several of our students showed up donning robes, bow ties, walkers, canes, glasses, mustaches, and more to showcase their excitement for the 100th day. Check it out on our Berry social media!

The 3rd quarter is here and what an important quarter it is! *"Out of all of the quarters, the 3rd quarter of the school year is notorious for being the most challenging. During this quarter, students are given more tests and expected to show evidence of grade level mastery (or emergent mastery). Students are also preparing for the forthcoming tests, such as the MCAP (3rd-5th) and MISA (5th) and other important exams such as Common Assessments and Benchmark assessments (K-5th). Teachers also have greater expectations. From analyzing assessment data, making student recommendations, and implementing instructional strategies that support the results of their student data, our teachers carry additional responsibilities in the 3rd quarter."* (J. Nganstop, WHHCSbox 2023)

It is important to keep this in mind over the next 9-weeks. Let's be sure to support our students and each other!

Looking at our schedule for 3rd quarter, we are making every effort to keep our students encouraged, supported, and confident in their abilities and strong character. We are continuing our PBIS School Store, awarding those students who exemplify their 3 R's: Respect, Responsibility, and Ready to Learn. (For those interested and inclined to donate to our school store and "testing treats" please use these links.)

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1Z72ZHWHSHPHH?ref=wl_share
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IGL3E9ICZE99?type=wishlist>

We will also begin our second round of "Rise and Roar." This program is for students in grades 3, 4, & 5 who are on the cusp of grade level proficiency in either Mathematics or Reading based on Winter iReady data and/or last year's MCAP data. This program will expose students to grade level material to support and enrich their skills. Selected students will receive an invitation and permission slip from their homeroom teacher the week of February 12th. Please contact Mrs. DeAtley, jdeatley@ccboe.com with any questions.

All month, we are celebrating Black History Month. Our "Cultural Awareness Committee" has created a hallway display and composed daily announcements to be shared honoring the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who helped shape the Nation. On February 16th, CCPS is hosting the African American Read-In (AARI) to encourage communities to read together, centering African American books and authors. (See attached.) On February 23rd, our 2nd grade team is hosting a "Black History Living Museum." Please look for information to be shared from 2nd grade.

Our Cultural Awareness Committee is also challenging our school to a "Door Decorating Contest." Interested staff will be decorating their door/other doors to celebrate the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history. The categories for decorating include: athletes, music, education, men/women inventors, pop culture, sports, and the Arts. **Doors are to be completed by February 28th for voting.**

Are YOU interested in sharing your creative ideas for a door?

Would you be willing to come and help our school decorate doors for students to view and learn from? Berry welcomes your creative help!

Sign up here if interested! <https://forms.office.com/r/hut0sgg7rj>

Continual thanks is to be shared with our PTO. They have managed to spread more joy with this month's "Candy Gram" fundraiser. LOTS of students were excited to bring their

One School

One Community

February Acknowledgments

Black History Month

February Core Essential: Kindness

Read Across America

No School: February 19th

Candy Grams to share with special friends and teachers.

I am incredibly grateful for the work of our PTO as well as the families that continue to show up and support our school/home efforts. Mark your calendar for March's PTO meeting which will be held on March 6th at 6:30PM in the Library. Jason Stoddard, Director of School Safety and Security will be our guest speaker. He will address the latest Safety and Security efforts of CCPS and answer any questions you may have. We are also hopeful to have a representative from the Office of Technology to share some safeguards and tips for young device users. Two VERY important topics. Please plan to attend!

Our Reading Resource Teacher, Mrs. DeAtley has been busy planning our upcoming Read Across America week as well as our "One Book One Berry" family reading initiative and celebration. Please see the attachments for both events and how you can support our literacy-focused fun!

Update on Awards Assemblies -

MANY efforts and planning go into coordinating Awards Assemblies. It is always my priority as the Principal to celebrate our students and their accomplishments, improvements, and contributions. While most schools have done away with the formalities of awards and celebrations, I take pride in the commitment to celebrating our students and we will continue to do so.

That said, I took the feedback and comments shared (and overheard) at past and current assemblies and am pivoting once again to coordinate an Awards Assembly that best illustrates our commitment to celebrating students. The coordination of space, time, staff support, and safety are just a few factors that go into determining these events.

We will be hosting a combination 2nd and 3rd quarter awards assembly in April. (Details to come.) Students will still be recognized at the school level for their 2nd quarter accomplishments, and will participate in the assemblies to be held in April. Thank You for your understanding and support.

January/February Highlights @ Berry Elementary!



For more pictures and updates,

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