

RIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RIDING HIGH TO EXCELLENCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ridgeway family encourages community involvement, values learning, and promotes character.

VISION STATEMENT VALUES

Every student at Ridgeway will be productive members of our world by displaying:

- ❖ *Competence* toward rigorous standards assessed through ongoing state and school-based assessments.
- ❖ *Compassion* as students develop values and demonstrate a caring affect.
- ❖ *Confidence* as they develop and demonstrate the ability to persevere through complex tasks and to accept challenges.

Principal's Message

January 2020- how did that happen? This school year is speeding past and this month has lots in store. Our wonderful PTA is sponsoring a Movie Night on Friday, January 10th. Doors will open at 6 and the movie starts at 6:30.

Schools and AACPS offices will be closed on Monday, January 20st in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and there will be two 2-hour early dismissals on January 28th and 29th for report card preparations.

We hope that the winter break was restful and fun for your family, but we are really glad to have your children back with us.

Dr. Prater, Principal

Mrs. Elliott, Assistant Principal



Background Checks

Before you volunteer, **you must** watch the *Anne Arundel County Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse PowerPoint* and complete the form for us to keep on file.

*Background checks can now be done online and are required for all school field trips but are not required to volunteer at the school. To begin the background check process, please go to the following link:

<http://www.aacps.org/chaperone/>.



With cold weather quickly approaching, we ask that you remind students to bring/ wear their coats, hats, and gloves. While the morning may start off reasonably warm, changes may occur during the school day.

School Meal Prices for the 2019-2020 School Year

Breakfast (Full Price) \$1.50
Breakfast (Reduced-Price) FREE
Lunch (Full Price) \$2.75
Lunch (Reduced-Price) \$.40
Milk – ½ pint (A la Carte) \$.55
Adult meal prices:
Breakfast \$1.90
Lunch \$3.65

All students may apply to receive free or reduced-price meals at AACPS. Instructions to apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals Apply online any time during the school year. Go to:
<http://aacpschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT RIDGEWAY?

ACC- Our theme this month revolves around America in the past. Our students compare and contrast life in America today to life a long time ago. The core content stories are: Life in America, Back in Time, A New Leader for the Colonies, and Food in the Colonies. For written expression, we will be working on using high frequency words and our themed vocabulary. Students will learn how to form/build/read sentences addressing who, what, and where while retaining comprehension of these new vocabulary words.

Dolch/Fry Words- work, and, for, need, see, they, food, could not, some, make, long, into, life, today, grow, don't, time

Vocabulary- America, clothes, Colonists, crop, different, fruit, log cabin, need, president, school, leader, vegetable, wagon

In math, we will be taking survey data about what colonial jobs we would like to do if we lived in the past. Students will analyze their graph to answer questions related to the survey answers. Students will also continue to work on individualized skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, measuring, rounding, telling time, counting coins, and solving word problems related to our colonial theme.

During our Science and S.S block students will be using the scientific method to conduct an experiment to make our own butter. We will focus on the concepts of changing a liquid into a solid. We will practice measurement/ sequencing skills to create delicious winter themed recipes. We will also cover unit 5 literature based social skills lessons revolving around conversation skills and whole body listening.

(Literature Based Stories Include: The Conversation Train, Whole Body Listening Larry at School, The Rabbit Listened, and Talk and Work It Out.

KINDERGARTEN - Happy New Year! As we return from the winter break, we will be taking some time to review rules and routines in our Kindergarten classes. We will continue to review sight words, blending and work on reading strategies in groups. In math, we will explore non-standard measurement and teen numbers. Please dress your child appropriately for we will continue to go outside if the weather permits. Please update your child's extra set of clothes kept at school to reflect the change in temperature. Have fun reading with or to your child every day!

FIRST - Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed spending time with friends and family over winter break. Now is a great time to replenish your child's school supplies, such as crayons, glue sticks, and pencils. In Math, we will continue to work on strategies for adding and subtracting to 100. Please spend some time practicing math facts with your child. In writing the children have been working on informational writing. We look forward to an upcoming Social Studies project called **Journeys**. The students will gather facts about a chosen country and prepare to share new information they've learned about it with their classmates. Parents will also be invited in for the presentations. Information about this project will be sent home on January 7th. Thanks, as always, for your support!

SECOND- Please remind your child to bring a coat. We will try to go out for recess as much as possible. Since the weather can be unpredictable, a winter coat will come in handy on those unexpected chilly days. In Social Studies we will be learning about economics, trade, goods, and resources. In Math, we will be learning about money and using money in word problems. In Language Arts we will work on the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story. We will be writing stories of our own. Check in with your child regarding supplies. This is a great time to replenish glue sticks, crayons, and pencils. With cold season upon us, tissues and hand sanitizer are greatly appreciated!

THIRD - In Language Arts, students will be practicing comprehension skills such as author's purpose, point of view, main idea and details and making inferences. Math will cover addition and subtraction problems involving measurement, multiplication and Hands on Equations. Please keep practicing multiplication facts with your child each day to help them become fluent in their basic facts. In Science, students will learn about the life cycle of living things. Be on the lookout for information about our reading challenge in the month of January.

FOURTH -Happy New Year! Now is the time for a fresh beginning. Please make sure your child has all their needed supplies, including pencils, dry erase markers, notebooks, and folders. In Language Arts, we are continuing to focus on non-fiction text and practicing skills such as main idea and details, text structure, and text features. In Math, we are working on area and perimeter and multiplicative comparison. Please continue to practice multiplication facts nightly with your child. In Science class, we will be learning about weathering and erosion and how our actions can impact the Chesapeake Bay. In Social Studies, the students are continuing their exploration of Maryland history with a focus on colonial Maryland and the American Revolution. Now that the weather is getting colder, all students need to dress warmly for outdoor recess. Thank you to all the parents who chaperoned our trip to see *Charlotte's Web* at Toby's Dinner Theatre last month. Our trip to Arlington Echo is coming up in February and we need many parent volunteers. Be on the lookout for information coming home this month!

FIFTH -We hope everyone enjoyed the winter break. In Language Arts, students will read multiple texts that will enable them to compare and contrast articles and formulate opinions. In Math, we will continue to work on operations with fractions. In Science we will be beginning our study of the water cycle and space. In Social Studies, we will be moving into a study of the Revolutionary War. Fifth graders will be taking Math and Language Arts District Assessments in January. We will also be participating in CogAt testing. Information on the drownproofing field trip will be coming home within the next few weeks. Thanks for all of your support.

MEDIA- Happy New Year! January is National Book Month, Maryland Reading Month and National Reading Day (January 23rd)! We are kicking off the #AACPSReadWithMe Challenge this month. Please participate! We will also be getting more involved with coding and STEM challenges this month. We look forward to watching all grades grow in these two areas!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - In the month of January the 3,4,5 grade students will spend time on scooter hockey and scooter handball, focusing on teamwork and offensive, defensive strategies. K, 1, 2 grades will be working with the parachute. Our Bowling unit will start after Martin Luther King Jr day for all grades and take us into the month of February.

MUSIC - Mr. Bosch, Ms. Westermeyer, Mrs. Lopata, Mr. Wertz and Mr. Fisher would like to thank everyone for the gifts they received at before the break. They truly appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness!

General Music students are continuing their work with the steady beat, rhythm, notation, singing, and form among many other things.

Band, Chorus, and Strings students are beginning preparations for their Spring Concerts. Concert dates are as follows. Please, mark your calendars. Plan on coming and hearing these students!

- Chorus Spring Concert - 5/8/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Strings Spring Concert - 5/12/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Band Spring Concert - 5/14/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note students must dress in concert dress. This includes and is the same for all three groups:

- white shirt or blouse
- black pants, slacks, or skirt
- black dress shoes

- Girls may also choose to wear a solid black dress.

SPEECH- The Speech Spot! Speech and Language JANUARY Newsletter! Happy New Year!
Mrs. Tettey and Mrs. Jones, Speech Language Pathologists

If you have concerns about your child's Speech and Language, please contact your child's teachers and they can get in touch with us!

Strategy of the Month: Visualization: This month we are picturing objects/events in our minds to help us remember details and facts. -Visualizing brings the reading to life! -When you visualize, you should think about the smells, sounds, tastes, sights, and even the feelings.

-When we use visualization, we...

- Create a picture in your head
- Listen for the information.
- Use the pictures in your head to help recall information!

Try this at home! Before you go to the store. Visualize the items you are buying and then recall them!

Books We're Reading

Snow Globe Family, The Mitten, Snowmen at Night

Vocabulary of the Month: Snow, Snowflake, Frozen, Frigid, Frostbite, Annual, Dreary, Icicles,

Word Practice: Talk about a time when you felt or saw these things (vocabulary). Give details!

Make Predictions! While we read these stories in Speech, be sure to make predictions of what you think is going to happen. Be sure to listen to clues and look at pictures to help you!



Counselor's Corner

Dear Parents,

During this month, I will be delivering classroom lessons about child sexual abuse in all classes. You can preview the lessons and discuss any concerns about them with me. Parents can opt out of having their child(ren) participate in the lessons, and an alternative activity will be provided. Follow up materials will be sent home, so that you can support what your child has learned.

Students will receive lessons from me, focusing on:

- Identify safety rules for home, school, and community, including the 6 Protect Yourself Rules.
- Describe the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching.
- Explain that everyone has the right to tell others not to touch his or her body.
- Demonstrate refusal skills when in unsafe situations (for example “No, Stop statements, run/walk away, tell a grown-up).
- Identify safety rules for school, the home and the community.
- Roleplay what to do if a stranger approaches you – at home, in a car, on the street.
- Identify situations when it is necessary to seek adult help.

All lessons include information that will come home with your child after the lesson has been taught so that you can support your child as he or she learns to be safe.

These lessons are important because school provides a safe place where children can learn what to do in unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. Trusted adults provide students with an opportunity to practice handling situations related to child sexual abuse and personal body safety, so that the first time a young person is faced with an unsafe situation, he or she knows what to do and has practiced doing it. Students will identify trusted adults, both inside and outside of the school, who they can go for help.

You can make arrangements to preview the lessons with your child's school counselor, or you can preview them on the Anne Arundel County Public Schools website. Go to <https://www.aacps.org/Page/5481> to preview the lessons or to find more information about Erin's Law in a FAQ.

If you have questions about these lessons, please don't hesitate to contact me at mstup@aacps.org or 410-222-6524.

Thank you for your support,

*Melissa Stup
School Counselor
Ridgeway Elementary
410-222-6524*

Congratulations to the following students for earning Student of the Month by showing encouragement throughout the school.

Kindergarten

Ms. Corso –Khloe Y.
Mrs. Pinckney-Emilee A.
Ms. Schiller – Teresa O.
Mrs. Sweitzer –Genevieve J.
Ms. Webb – Dominic R.
Ms. Canelli-Samantha F.

First Grade

Ms. Choo-Ava W.
Mrs. Clark –Andrew T.
Ms. Ryan-Ashlynn F.
Ms. Tran-James H.
Ms. Shiffrin-Eden A.

Second Grade

Ms. D'Angelo-Chance A.
Ms. Gaunt- Orlando P.
Ms. Johnston- Dylan N.M.
Mrs. Sym- Alana W.
Mrs. Ward- Alexandra C.

Third Grade

Mrs. Brown-Alisha B.
Ms. Downie- Rosemary T.
Ms. Potts- Jiovanni O.
Mrs. Zak-Max T.

Fourth Grade

Mr. Birus-Abigail V.
Mrs. Carrigan-Jonathan M.
Ms. Heisman-Taytum H.
Ms. Stepien-Madison K.
Mrs. Quarantillo- Lily F.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Fox- Samantha C.
Mrs. Harper-Lippert- DaNaeja J.
Mrs. Kruszynski- Katianna A.
Ms. Stanton-Dean G.
Ms. Toth-Xavier T.

ACC

Ms. Hallinin- Grace C.

This month we are focusing on problem solving. Lessons, activities and discussion will utilize problem solving strategies like:

Stop, Think, Do – 3 steps to take to solve a problem

Tucker the Turtle – for younger grades to calm down before reacting

Little or Big Deal – determining if students should try to solve the problem or get adult help

We encourage our students to try to solve little deals using “I Messages” to communicate feelings and multiple solutions like sharing, taking turns, ignoring, and walking away. Please encourage your students to demonstrate problem solving behavior at home and at school.

Here are some resources you may find helpful:

Books:

Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy by David Samon and Jacky Davis

Prudy's Problem and How She Solved It by Carey Armstrong-Ellis

Websites:

<https://www.verywell.com/teach-kids-problem-solving-skills-1095015>

<https://www.noodle.com/articles/teaching-problem-solving-skills-to-your-young-kids>



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day

Thursday, January 2 School Reopens

Friday, January 10 PTA Movie Night-*Toy Story 4*

Monday, January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – Schools and offices closed

Tuesday, January 28 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students

Tuesday, January 28 End of the Marking Period

Wednesday, January 29 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students

Thursday, January 30 Schools Closed for Students - Teacher Workday

Friday, January 31 Beginning of the third marking period

Monday, February 3 PTA Meeting-Cafeteria 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday, February 10 Progress Report/Report Card Distribution for all students

Wednesday, February 12 Prof Development-Two-hour early dismissal for students

Monday, February 17 President's Day-Schools and Office closed