

THE WOLF PACK JOURNAL

Red House Run Elementary School December 2019- Volume 2

Leah Scarafile, Principal
Christina Davis, Assistant Principal



Amanda McKinney, PTA President
Tiffany Welch, PTA Vice President
Lauren Canterbury, PTA Treasurer
Michelle Chronowski, PTA Secretary

Calendar of Events:

December **23-31- Schools and Office Closed** for Winter Break

January **2- Schools Reopen**
9- Team BCPS Day- Wear Blue
20- Schools Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
22- Family Advisory Meeting at 4:00
22- PTA Meeting 6:00
23- Math Night at Giant!!
24- Second Marking Period Ends; Half Day for Students

February **17- Schools Closed for Presidents' Day**

***Students will be taking Winter MAP between 1/21-2/28. We are excited to see the progress and growth!**

Tis the season to show gratitude and appreciation. I am so thankful to serve as your school principal and be a part of this amazing community. It has been an exhilarating first half of the school year. I have seen outstanding instruction, engaged learners, and students and staff building connections. We continue to focus our efforts this year on our School Progress Plan goals of improving attendance by creating a greater sense of belonging, providing differentiated small group instruction in English Language Arts to meet student needs, and ongoing exposure to rigorous math tasks and problem solving. I am happy to report that student perception surveys are showing an improvement in students feeling safe and feeling a sense of belonging. Connectedness is so important to me and we have focused heavily on making sure our students build relationships and connections with peers and staff. We continue to implement components of Conscious Discipline, daily greetings and class meetings to build classroom communities. Students continue to enjoy our monthly 'Buddy Days'. Please take the time to look at all the great pictures on our Facebook page and Twitter to see the amazing work going on. A big thank you to Mrs. Davis, our incredible Assistant Principal, for managing our social media and promoting school successes. Our staff and students have been working hard to gain the academic skills to help them be more successful. Please read the blurbs from each grade level and content area to see what students have been working on, what is coming up in the new year, and what you can do at home for additional skill practice. We thank you for your continued partnership and look forward to an even better 2020!

With Warm Regards,
Leah Scarafile
Principal

Pre-Kindergarten

Team Pre-K could not be more proud of our students! They are demonstrating responsibility by taking on classroom jobs such as greeter, hall monitor, line leader, and caboose. Every day they demonstrate kindness and cooperation. They are working to learn letters and their sounds and have already learned 7 sight words! In math, they have mastered sorting and patterning. In January, Pre-K will begin working on numeral recognition and making sets in addition to continuing with new sight words, letters, and sounds.

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are working hard and making friends. We are identifying all letter names and letter sounds. We have introduced 13 sight words. It is important to review sight word cards each day. Kindergarteners will be blending 3 sounds together during the month of January. In math, we will be counting objects to 20. We will be moving into 3-D shapes this winter. We will be completing more independent writing as the year progresses. It is important to remember finger spacers, uppercase letters first, and periods at the end. This is a great skill to work on at home! Your child could start a journal with the sight words. We will be learning about winter during content time. In reading, we will continue to find key details, sequence story events and answer comprehension questions. In January, we will take our DIBELS test again and see how well we can name letters, segment sounds, read nonsense and high frequency words. We are looking forward to seeing those scores jump up!

First Grade

First grade will be starting an ELA unit in folktales! We will focus on story elements and the central message or theme of each folktale we read. In math, we will begin Unit 4 on Data. We will learn about sorting, graphing and surveys. We will continue to work on animal life cycles and habitats in our science unit. Keep practicing your sight words and blending skills for phonics. We uncovered all our alphabet letters now and are moving on to learn about vowel teams, digraphs, and long vowels.

Second Grade

We will begin the new year investigating weather and how it affects people, places, and things. Then, we will move on to solving and writing mysteries. Look out for our mystery book order forms! In math, we will begin analyzing data and increase the difficulty in solving multi-step word problems.

Third Grade

Third graders have been working hard to research inventions and their innovations over time in ELA. We will be continuing this unit into January as we work to study how different inventions came to be those we are familiar with today. We have learned about the different ways writers organize their ideas such as sequencing, problem and solution, and cause and effect. At the end of our unit, students will be researching and reporting on an invention of their choice. In math, we have circled back around to a second multiplication and division unit. We will be working to solve multi-step, real world problems that utilize all four basic operations. Finally, in science we are working to develop a safe vehicle to protect our driver, "Eggbert". At home, we encourage you to continue to read with your child and discuss the books together. Practicing basic math

facts will help your child to access some of the more challenging problems we are beginning to attack. Thank you for your continued support!

Fourth Grade

Can you believe it's Winter Break already? Time is certainly flying this school year. This quarter, we completed our Multiplication unit and have moved on to Division in math. Please continue to review previously taught skills with your child, such as the different place values and basic facts for all four mathematical operations. We are continuously reminding our students to check their work, to take their time solving problems using algorithms, to read carefully when solving word problems, and to always show their work and explain their answer when asked.

In ELA, we have been working hard on our Author Study unit. We researched the author Kate DiCamillo and then read some of her novels to locate details from her personal life that appear in her writing. Ask your child to tell you about the novel they read! We have been working on a variety of skills including character traits, setting, and determining the theme in a story.

On another note, given that it's cold and flu season, if you are ever able to donate a box or two of Kleenex to our classrooms, it is greatly appreciated. We are going through multiple boxes per week right now! Thank you for all your support, love, and efforts! We enjoy working with your children each day and we hope you have a wonderful Winter Break!

Fifth Grade

Wow! It's hard to believe that 2019 is over already! Fifth grade has been working so hard learning about Colonial America in Social Studies and the events of the American Revolution in Language Arts. As our American Revolution unit is coming to an end, students are working hard on researching hidden figures of the American Revolution and will be presenting their findings by giving a speech pretending to be the person they researched. Our next unit in Language Arts will be a historical fiction novel study as we continue to discover more about the American Revolution. We have begun our first science unit, Bioblitz, and have enjoyed learning about the vast biodiversity that we have right here in our RHR school yard. In 5th grade math, students have been refining multiplication and division skills by multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers and decimals. Advanced math students have jumped into Algebra and have been working with algebra tiles to learn how to evaluate expressions and solve equations. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2020!

SEL Team

The SEL team has been working hard on incorporating everyday social skills into the lives of our students. In November, our students prepared for a Thanksgiving feast where they showed table manners and appropriate social interactions. The entire program prepared placemats and sat at a long table to celebrate all the things we are thankful for. In December we hosted a tea for the staff of the school. Our students had the roles of host, server, and food prep. Students were able to mingle with members of the school staff that they did not know as well as their own teachers. This provided opportunities to build relationships with varying members of the school community. The students displayed leadership roles and the ability to be flexible in new situations. We are so proud of our program and the progress our students have made!

Special Areas

In Library, kindergarten students will identify story elements within various stories, specifically focusing on characters and setting. First graders will make connections with characters through various texts. Second graders will identify the elements of a fairy tale in order to write their own fairy tale. Third graders will be conducting research about an invention of their choice in order to use their findings to identify relationships between inventions and innovations in their ELA class. Fourth graders will analyze elements of a great book in order to persuade other students to read their book of choice through effective opinion/argument writing. Fifth graders will begin an author study, where they will analyze the evidence from the author's writing and illustrations in order to identify author's purpose for writing his/her works.

In Vocal Music Class, the primary grades will continue to explore sound and symbols with their voices, body percussion, rhythmic instruments, and drums. The upper grades will delve more deeply into note reading as they play recorders, xylophones and glockenspiels.

Music Note: Continue to sing and listen to music with your children. Children who are exposed to music have an increased ability to concentrate and improved memory recall.

In Physical Education, students improved their bowling skills through various activities during the month of November. Our primary grades focused on demonstrating the proper one-arm swing and our intermediate grades focused on improving their bowling score each class. Thank you to all the visitors that were able to come bowl with us during American Education Week!

In December, our primary grades have been working with manipulatives. They have been using scarves, bean bags, and balloons to improve their coordination. Our intermediate grades are completing health-related physical fitness tests known as the Fitnessgram. These tests are designed to assess cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition.

School Counseling

Classroom guidance lessons for the month of December have focused on personal safety. The students discussed abuse and neglect and the need to tell a trusted adult if they or anyone else is the victim of abuse or neglect. This is an important topic to discuss with your child to reinforce the importance of staying safe. Happy Holidays!

Virtues Learning

Red House Run Elementary School celebrated the virtue of generosity in December by making holiday decorations and cards for the Franklin Woods Center and the Rosedale Senior Center. Students collaborated during their monthly buddy day to make the beautiful snowflakes, colorful beaded ornaments, and adorable candy cane reindeers, as well as other thoughtfully made gifts.

In January, we will practice the virtue of cleanliness as it relates to keeping our school community clean. Our main focus for cleanliness will be in the cafeteria. Our students will challenge themselves to use good manners during their meal as well as to clean up after themselves. They will have the opportunity to earn rewards throughout the month by keeping their areas clean.

Health Information



It's Flu Season! PLEASE help us to keep our school safe by following these important reminders:

If your child is sick, DO NOT send them to school!

Students need to be FEVER FREE (below **100 F (37.8 C)**) without the use of Tylenol or Motrin for 24 hours before coming back to school.



Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If no tissue is available, cough/sneeze into your sleeve.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Get your child and family vaccinated!