

# REISTERSTOWN ELEMENTARY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023



## OUR MISSION:

Reisterstown Elementary School is committed to educating the whole child while providing a safe and nurturing environment that promotes a passion for lifelong learning, respect for self, others, the learning environment, and an appreciation for individual differences.

## From Your Proud Principal

It's that time when we are rounding out the first quarter of the year! On Friday, November 3rd, we will have a half day to mark the end the First Marking Period. As we continue to move towards national standards, it is important that student grades give parents/guardians a clear understanding of how their student is performing towards grade level expectations. The grades will be based on a collection of evidence from various academic tasks. The report card offers teachers an opportunity to share feedback in each subject area, in addition to sharing information regarding Skills and Conduct. Again, this year, comments will only be written during the second and third quarter. We hope that every family will sign up for a conference with their child's teacher on November 20th (PS/PK) and 21st (PS-5). Below are the grade descriptors:

### Grades 1-3:

CD – Consistently Demonstrating – Demonstrating a Strong Command of grade level standards

P – Progressing – Demonstrating a Developing Command of grade level standards

N – Needs Development – Demonstrating a Beginning Command of grade level standards

NA – Not Applicable– Grade level standards were neither taught nor evaluated

NG – No Grade – Student is Level 1 or Level 2 English Learner and will not receive a grade

### Grades 4- 5:

A – Outstanding – Meeting or Extending the grade level standards

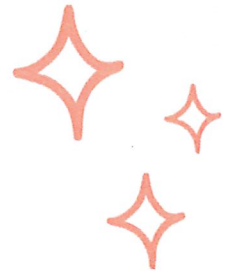
B – Above Average – Approaching the grade level standards

C – Average – Demonstrating a Developing Command of grade level standards

D – Below Average – Demonstrating a Beginning Command of grade level standards

E – Failing – No evidence of development of grade level standards

NG – No Grade - Student is Level 1 or Level 2 English Learner and will not receive a grade



We are continuing to utilize Talking Points as our school-wide communication system. It is a great way to receive notices about what is happening in the classroom and to communicate with the teacher. If you have not already signed up, please contact your child's teacher. We will be sharing important information through Talking Points all year to be #RESconnected!

We look forward to another great month, including American Education Week (November 14-17). Look out for our visitation schedule coming soon! In the spirit of November, I want to express how thankful I am for our incredible teaching staff, our hardworking students, and our parents and families for their engagement and support of our school. I am truly a Proud Principal!

*Mrs. Brinkley*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## NOVEMBER:

3 - 3-Hour Early Dismissal (12:05)  
 9 - Picture Retake day  
 13 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
 14-17 American Education Week  
 14 - Report Cards Distributed  
 14 - PTA EVENT  
 20 - No Pre-School/Pre-Kinder  
 21 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
 CONFERENCE DAY  
 22-24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

## DECEMBER:

3 - PTA Joe Corbi Delivery  
 11- 15 PTA Snowy Days Gift Shop  
 12 - PTA EVENT  
 14 - Music Concert  
 15 - Grade 5 - Field Trip  
 (details coming)  
 22 - 3 hour Early Dismissal  
 25 - 29 WINTER BREAK (through  
 January 1)

### AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK - VISITATION SCHEDULE

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| PRESCHOOL        | FRIDAY 11/17 (AM 9-10; PM 1-2)   |
| PRE-KINDERGARTEN | THURSDAY 11/16 (AM 9-10; PM 1-2) |
| KINDERGARTEN     | TUESDAY 11/14 (8:30 - 10:30)     |
| GRADE 1          | WEDNESDAY 11/15 (8:30 - 10:30)   |
| GRADE 2          | TUESDAY 11/14 (8:30 - 10:30)     |
| GRADE 3          | WEDNESDAY 11/15 (8:30 - 10:30)   |
| GRADE 4          | FRIDAY 11/17 (8:30 - 10:30)      |
| GRADE 5          | THURSDAY 11/16 (8:30 - 10:30)    |

**OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF  
 ARE COMMITTED TO  
 EXCELLENCE.**

#### Reisterstown Elementary School Commitments

**P** is for peacefulness

I am calm & reflective.

**A** is for acts of kindness

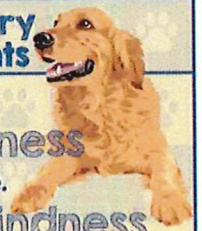
I am friendly & considerate.

**W** is for willpower

I am in control of my actions & impulses.

**S** is for safety

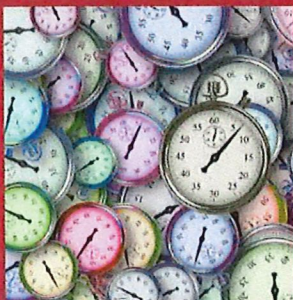
I am safe & orderly.



## Ten Facts About School Attendance

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Chronic absence appears to have doubled by the end of the 2021-22 school year. We estimate that it now affects nearly one out of three students (or 16 million vs. 8 million students in the 2018-19 school year).
- Absenteeism and its ill effects start early.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
- Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
- Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused and unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.

Source: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/the-problem/10-facts-about-school-attendance/>



### CHALLENGE:

We have many students who arrive to school late. Our goal is 100% on time, every day. Please work with us to make arriving to school on time a priority for your family.

Celebrating  
our 94%  
Attendance  
rate  
with a 5-  
minute  
dance party!



## EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDERS

- If you know that you will be picking your child up from school early, please notify the teacher and the front office before 2:30 PM.
- Emergency contacts are not allowed to pick up students unless we have permission from the parent/guardian. Their information is in our system just in case we are unable to contact a parent/guardian in an emergency situation.
- In order to ensure the safety of our students during dismissal, **all early dismissals should be completed before 2:15 PM.**

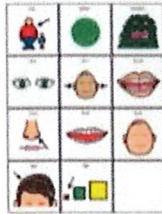
# PRE SCHOOL

## This Month in Miss Jessica's EC3s

### Theme: Healthy Me

Book: *Go Away Big, Green Monster*

#### Vocabulary:



Book: *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*

#### Vocabulary:



#### Nursey Rhyme:

Little Boy Blue  
It's Raining, It's Pouring

#### Colors and Shape:

Green, Pink, Rectangle

### Upcoming Dates

November 3- ½ Day- No afternoon Preschool

November 13- No School

November 14-17- American Ed Week

November 20 and 21- Conference Day

November 22, 23, 24- No school

#### Song of the Month

Head, Shoulders, Knees, and  
Toes

#### Reminders:

AM dismissal time is 10:50

PM dismissal time is 2:45.

As the weather is getting colder, please make sure your student has a weather appropriate change of clothes at school.

As many students are coming with runny noses, we are quickly running out of tissues in the classroom. If possible, please send in a box of tissues.

If you email me after 3:20 p.m. or on the weekends, I will get back to the next school day.

# PRE KINDER

This month is Pre-K, we will begin our new unit "All About Me." We will spend lots of time talking about "My Feelings" and "Families." We will also be reading lots of great books, such as, I Like Me and Jonathan and His Mommy.

# KINDERGARTEN

In phonics we are beginning to learn letter names and sounds in isolation. Please practice identifying the following letters at home: Ss, Mm, Dd, Pp, Aa. We are continuing to develop reading skills using our decodable readers. Please practice reading these stories after they are sent home and practice identifying the following sight words to support your child in reading and writing: a, the, and, go, had, he, I, see, has, you, we, of, am.

Our third reading module will focus on what makes a community. We will explore the people and places in communities as well as how to help others and create a sense of belonging in our community.

In math we have been identifying how many items in a collection without counting, comparing sets using the terms “more” and “less”, recognizing combinations that make 5 and 10, matching quantities to a written numeral, and building with two-dimensional shapes. In our upcoming unit students will count by 2’s to 20, explore even numbers, add and subtract 1 from numbers within 10, compare and order numbers within 10, and write equations to show sums up to 5.

Please remember to pack a water bottle and snack for your child each day and to communicate with your child’s teacher on Talking Points or by sending in a written note when your child is absent.

## GRADE ONE

First Grade had an excellent month of October! We are very excited for November. This month we will be scheduling first-quarter conferences. These conferences are mandatory. Please be on the lookout for sign-ups!

In Reading we will begin module 3 Amazing Animals. Students will learn about the various characteristics of animals that allow them to grow and survive in the natural world. They will also explore the different kinds of structures animals build for homes and protection. After reading the module’s texts, children should have a greater appreciation for the diversity of the animal kingdom. Using a variety of texts we will examine text features, story structure and Point of View.

In the writing piece we will examine different types of sentences.

In Math Unit 3 encourages student mastery of key number facts and fact strategies for single-digit addition and subtraction. The first two modules use the number rack to help students see number combinations, find the sum of two numbers, and compare two numbers to find the difference between them. The third module focuses on developing place-value understanding and solving addition combinations to 20.



# **GRADE TWO**

WOW, Quarter 1 flew by! This month in math, we are working on measuring with nonstandard units, adding and subtracting on the open number line, and more story problems. We are using popsicle sticks to help us make sense of place value as we get ready to add and subtract two- and three-digit numbers. In ELA, we are identifying the central idea of a text, author's purpose for writing, point of view, and practicing our writing skills by following the writing process to write a persuasive text. In Content, we are working through our first science unit in which the students become amateur engineers, observing and classifying the properties of different materials to help build a strong wall. Towards the end of the month, we will begin social studies, where we will take a dive into elements of the community in the United States. Students will study geography, economics, civics, culture, and history in different United States regions to practice core social studies skills. We are looking forward to another awesome month in 2nd grade!

# **GRADE THREE**

## **Reading:**

In this reading module, "use your words" students are listening and reading a variety of texts and media that present them with information about the importance of words and how they are used to express ideas and feelings. This genre focuses on letters and poetry and provides students with opportunities to identify elements of poetry and figurative language in order to understand unfamiliar text.

## **Math:**

In this multiplication unit students focus on developing a conceptual understand of multiplication. Investigations begin with contexts and problems that invite them to multiply, to think about equal groups and multiplicative comparisons. Story problems are not reserved as a culminating activity after students have explored multiplication.

# GRADE FOUR

It is hard to believe it is November. The fourth graders have been busy. In reading we are finishing Module 2: Come to Your Senses and starting Module 3: Rise to the Occasion. In math we are finishing Unit 2: Multi-Digit Multiplication and Early Division and starting Unit 3: Fractions and Decimals. The best way to help your child with math at home is to work on memorizing the basic multiplication and division facts. Conference Day is November 22nd, be on the lookout for a sign up from your child's teacher.

# GRADE FIVE

Oh...What a Story! We have had a blast diving headfirst into a wide array of literature genres throughout October. Texts have ranged from "steampunk fiction" to dramatic plays and poetry. Every text has been a new literary adventure and helped us answer the question ... "How does genre affect the way a story is told?" Ask your child which text and genre they liked the best!

During our Content time, we concluded our Bioblitz Unit for Science and started our first Health unit. Health is focused on healthy and unhealthy habits at home and at school. Students are challenged to identify personal values and analyze how those values drive their decision making. Moving forward, students will evaluate how their independent decisions impact their emotional, physical, social, spiritual and intellectual well-being.

Ms. Harlan and Ms. Lauber's math class learning how to add and subtract fractions using real world models. Models are designed to enable student to easily identify equivalent fractions and common denominators. In math this month,

Ms. Ormond's class began an in-depth investigation of ratios and rates. Students have been working in class and at home to create a board game that shows what they have learned. Next month we will continue our conversation about ratios by looking at a special kind of ratios, percentages. The whole class has been working hard and should be proud of what they have accomplished!

The 5th grade as a whole is off to a great start! Ms. Harlan, Ms. Lauber, and Ms. Ormond can't wait to tell you all about it on Conference Day (11/21)!



# VOCAL MUSIC

Happy November! We have been busy in vocal music class. Students said goodbye to the music intern from Towson, Ms. Bartlow. We wish her luck as she moves on to her next placement at Perry Hall High School.

5th graders are working hard to prepare for their winter concerts! They will be performing on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 pm at school. All 5th graders are expected to attend. Please let me know ASAP if your 5th grader has a conflict with this date. They will also be performing on Friday, December 15th at a local mall (we are working on finalizing a different location for this year). This will be a field trip during the school day.

I'm excited that all students in grades 3-5 will be attending a concert at the BSO (Baltimore Symphony Orchestra) this year, on Wednesday April 3rd! Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.



Ms. Feldman

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Fourth and Fifth Grade Students

During November, students in 4th and 5th grade will have the opportunity to learn more about the Battle of the Books, a reading competition RES competes in annually. If students are interested in joining a team, they must be available to stay after school one day each week up until the battle in May. Teams must read a total of 10 books to be ready for the battle. The books are a combination of chapter books (6) and graphic novels (4).

## Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to spend some time volunteering in the school library, there are many opportunities to do so each week. The times needed are mostly afternoons, between the hours of 12-2:30. Feel free to volunteer as little or often as your schedule allows. All volunteers must complete the volunteer training. If interested, please reach out to [mhale2@bcps.org](mailto:mhale2@bcps.org).

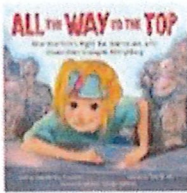
# LIBRARY NEWS CONT'D.

Fall into reading by checking out the 2023 Nominated Black Eyed Susan Books. The RES library now has all the books ready for check out!

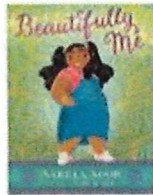
## Black Eyed Susan Award Nominees 2023-2024

### Picture Books

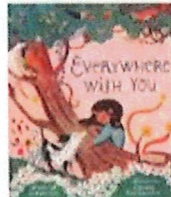
All the Way to the Top  
By Annette Bay Pimentel  
& Nabi H. Ali



Beautifully Me  
By Nabila Noor  
& Nabi H. Ali



Everywhere with You  
By Carle Soszick &  
Devon Holzwarth



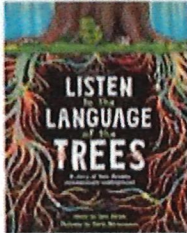
Finding Fire  
By Logan S. Kline



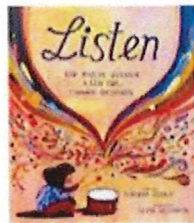
Home  
By Tonya Lippert &  
Andrea Stigmaier



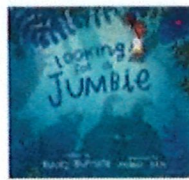
Listen to the Language  
of the Trees  
By Tera Kelley & Marie  
Hermansson



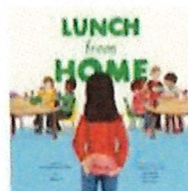
Listen  
By Shannon Stocker &  
Devon Holzwarth



Looking for a Jumble  
By Tracey Baptiste &  
Amber Ren



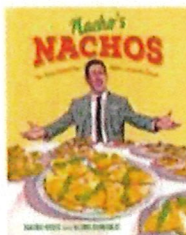
Lunch from Home  
By Joshua David Stein &  
Jing Li



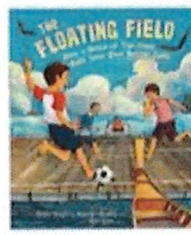
My First Day  
By Phung Nguyen Quang  
& Huynh Kim Lien



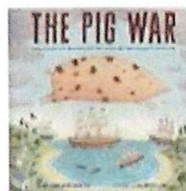
Nacho's Nachos  
By Sandra Nickel & Oliver  
Dominguez



The Floating Field  
By Scott Riley, Nguyen  
Quang & Kim Lien



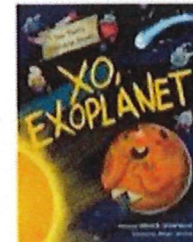
The Pig War  
By Emma Bland Smith &  
Alson Jay



There's a Ghost in this  
House  
By Oliver Jeffers



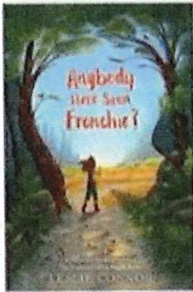
XO, Exoplanet  
By Deborah Underwood  
& Jorge Lacerda



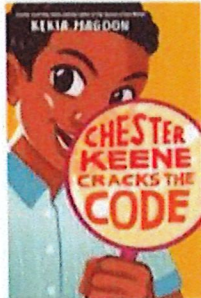
# LIBRARY NEWS CONT'D.

## Chapter Books

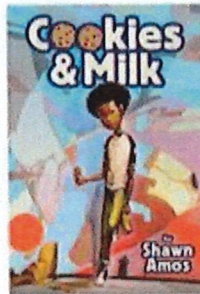
Anybody Here  
Seen Frenchie?  
By Leslie Connor



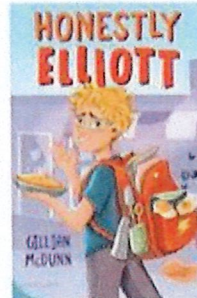
Chester Keene  
Cracks the Code  
By Kekla Magoon



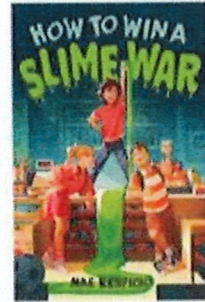
Cookies & Milk  
By Shawn Amos



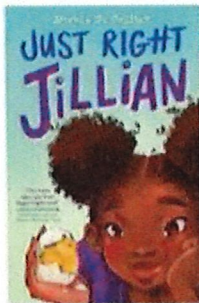
Honestly Elliott  
By Gillian McDunn



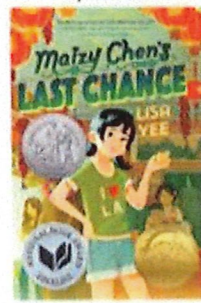
How to Win a  
Slime War  
By Mae Respicio



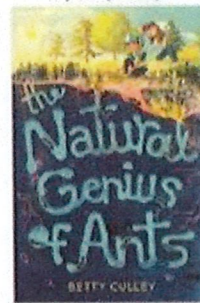
Just Right Jillian  
By Nicole D. Collier



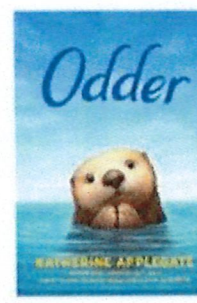
Maizy Chen's  
Last Chance  
By Lisa Yee



The Natural Genius  
of Ants  
By Betty Culley



Odder  
By Katherine Applegate



Once Upon  
a Tim  
By Stuart Gibbs

