

Cash Valley Connection

January, 2020

Volume 4



As we begin the New Year, it is a wonderful time for the Cash Valley family to celebrate! The school was selected by the Maryland State Department of Education and recognized by Governor Hogan as a Maryland Blue Ribbon school. There were only six schools selected in the state. The recognition was due to exhibiting significant improvement in student achievement. The school will receive numerous gifts and prizes and will complete an application to achieve the rank of National Blue Ribbon school selected by the United States Secretary of Education. In the spring, Dr. Salmon, the state superintendent of schools, will visit Cash Valley for an assembly celebration. Congratulations to all students, staff, and families for your dedication to learning and instruction with the results leading to student success. Let's celebrate...our school is BLUE!

Each year the Maryland State Department of Education releases a school report card that measures various school factors, such as academic achievement/progress, access to a well-rounded curriculum, and attendance. The purpose of this report is to help families, educators, and the community get a better perspective of school performance overall. The school report card provides information to the school, district, and state levels that identifies changes for increasing performance and celebrations for targets achieved. Cash Valley received a 5-star rating, the highest award (72.3/90), with a total 80% earned. Based on the school report card evaluation, Cash Valley is also ranked in the 95th percentile of elementary schools in the state. To review the school report card for Cash Valley, visit reportcard.msde.maryland.gov by selecting the county and school.

As a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school, established school-wide expectations of being responsible, respectful, and an expert learner is reflected in all areas and classrooms. Approaches to discipline is through restorative practices, which are proactive strategies to solving problems through positive relationships and sharing perspectives. Each year the school is evaluated on the PBIS implementation. Cash Valley has received the silver award, resulting in a proficient rating, by providing support systems, evidence data, and team structures that reflect discipline improvement. As part of the PBIS celebration, students participated in Minute to Win It games organized by the staff, allowing students to enjoy problem-solving games with peers.

With the various awards and recognitions Cash Valley has earned, the focus still remains on instruction with the priority being the students. Student success comes from the positive relationships between staff, students, and families. In this partnership, everyone involved contributes to the growth of the child, along with providing support and guidance when needed. The goal is for all students to become College and Career-Ready. Instruction is based on the state standards, presenting learning through the Gradual Release of Responsibility (I do-We do-You do together-You do alone), while providing strategies with the Universal Design for Learning to individualize instruction. With the Formative Assessment for Maryland Educators training received at the school, teachers personalize learning by knowing each student, establishing learning targets and success criteria for self-evaluation to improve performance. Students remain engaged and persevere in learning through a growth mindset that they will learn—maybe not yet—but they stay on course to close the gap until the goal is reached.

The performances of the Holiday Program (Grades PK-2) and the Winter Band Concert (Grades 4-5) were very successful. Thank you to Mrs. Jones, the band director, and Mrs. McClay, the music teacher, for your hard work in organizing these events that showcase the talent at Cash Valley school. It was apparent that the students enjoyed participating in these performances.

Through your fundraising support, the PTO provided the school with an allotment to purchase two new pieces of equipment for the playground. The order has been placed for the Cantata Chimes and Merry Musical interactive pieces. Springtime is the goal for installment. A very big thank you to the PTO and all family volunteers that assist in making this possible for the students. The popcorn fundraiser, holiday shop, and Santa visit takes much time to coordinate, and the students enjoy these events.

I am very proud to be the new school leader where the community strives to maintain a positive school-family partnership, the staff continuously trains to maintain a highly effective instructional focus, and the students are engaged and take ownership of their own learning. With these many celebrations, share the news about Cash Valley successes. You deserve the recognition and rewards!

PreK-3 News—Mrs. Robinson

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday break. We look forward to hearing all about your child's experiences, as we work to remember our classroom routines and expectations. A special thank you to all of the family members that came to our Gingerbread House classroom activity on December 17th. It was a success.

We will begin Unit 5, Our Neighborhood. During this unit, we will focus on what's in our neighborhoods. We will continue to increase vocabulary and communication skills. Your child will name community workers, as well as places (library, bank, fire station). In math, we will focus on number concepts 0-5. At home, have your child help you set the table. Have them count how many utensils, plates, napkins, and cups are needed. Children learn best through real world hands-on connections.

Our target vocabulary words will be number, counting, match, same, more, less, fewer, and sets. The letters we will introduce and explore will be Ff, Hh, and Dd. Let your child find these letters in storybooks as you read to them. We have learned the following letters so far: Aa, Mm, Ss, Pp, Tt, Ii, Nn, Cc, and Oo. Our class will continue to practice reading concepts including rhyming and counting syllables.

Thank you for all that you do to help your child's learning experience!

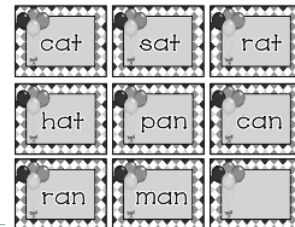


Kindergarten News

Ms. Sibley & Mrs. Nines

The onset of a new year hasn't slowed down kindergarten one bit! Neither has

the cold! With our return to school, we must refocus on learning. Recognizing short and long vowel sounds, identifying all letters and sounds, reading CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant pattern) words, and high



frequency words, writing complete sentences, and comparing, and problem solving will be main concerns. The past few weeks have been devoted to increasing our skills and automaticity with each skill.

In reading, students are rehearsing our blend and read strategy as well as beginning to read whole words quickly as we wrap up our current unit, Transportation. Our new reading unit, *Food*, will introduce sounds for *n*, *k*, and *ck*. During this unit, students will be reading and using new high frequency words: *to* and *have*. Up to this point, students have been taught at least 15 words. Many students know all of these words and more. By the end of the school year, kindergarten students will be responsible for 30+ high frequency words and numerous decodable words.

Continuing comparisons is our focus in math. We are using manipulatives and tools to compare length, weight, and capacity. We are also going to be comparing numbers and amounts to determine *more than*, *fewer than* and the *same as*. We are using these skills to problem solve.

As you can see, kindergarten is as busy as can be!

PreK-4 News—Mrs. Hardman

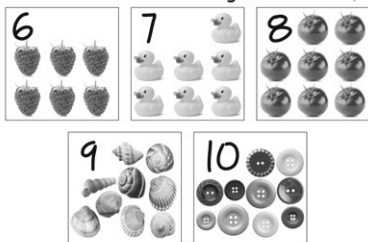
We are excited in Pre-K to beginning a new year with lots of learning! The boys and girls will kick off the new year with a reading unit called, "Our Neighbor". In this unit, the students will learn about the people and places in our community.

The class will continue to learn the letters of the alphabet and practice reviewing the previous ones. Some skills to work on at home are identifying rhyming words and counting syllables in words.

In math, we will continue to work on numbers 6-10. The boys and girls will be learning how to count and build sets using numbers 6-10.

Please remember now that the weather has turned cold to label coats, hats, and gloves with your child's name.

Numbers/Counting 6-10



1st Grade News

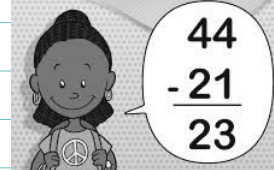
Mrs. Jones-Greig & Mr. Steckman

In reading, we are working on long vowel, silent e patterns. Students will be following this pattern for the spelling words the next couple of weeks. We will continue working in our red folders daily, as well as leveled readers. Please read from the folders nightly along with any other stories that are provided in the pocket of the folder.

In math, we will continue with subtraction strategies. Students will still have homework on Mondays and Wednesdays. We will begin adding and subtracting two-digit numbers in January.

Soon we will begin talking about ways to keep our minds and bodies healthy. Ask your child what he/she is learning.

DOUBLE DIGIT SUBTRACTION

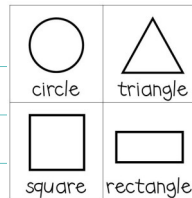


News from Mr. Loar's Classroom

Hello January! We are continuing to use our Core Board communication to express our wants and needs. This month we will be focusing on the words "not" and "I". We will also focus on the letters, K, T, and S, as well as daily ABC review.

In math, we will be looking at sorting similar objects in the Eureka Math curriculum and reviewing numbers 1-12 as well as learning numbers 13 and 14. We will be reviewing colors and reviewing identifying 2D shapes. In reading, we will continue into the curriculum learning about habitats.

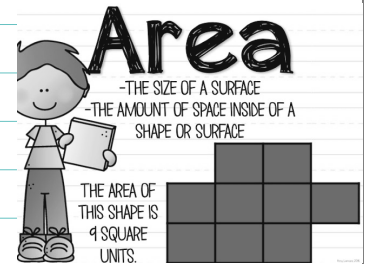
Please read our weekly reading story and core vocabulary story at home with your child.



3rd Grade News Mrs. Fair & Mrs. Belcher

Happy 2020! The new year brings an opportunity to set new goals for ourselves. This is true in third grade, as our students set goals to achieve in Accelerated Reader. Ask your child what total number of points he/she has decided to reach by the end of the year. Please encourage your child to reach this goal by reading more at home.

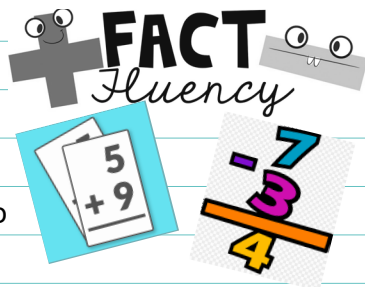
Students are learning about determining area by tiling and by using multiplication. They are also using division to solve for unknown side lengths of rectangles. Soon, we will begin our unit on fractions. Please make sure your child keeps studying those multiplication facts!



2nd Grade News Mrs. Rice & Mrs. Stouffer

Second graders are busy settling back into daily routines following the holiday break. We are continuing to focus on "reading to learn", and applying our reading skills to make meaning using both fiction and expository texts. Our phonics and spelling lessons are now focused on vowel teams and r-controlled vowels.

In math, students will be exploring a variety of strategies to add and subtract numbers within 1000. Strategies include place value disks, chip models, the arrow method, skip-counting by hundreds, tens, and ones, making a ten, using expanded form to add like units, and vertical form. These strategies will be used to help solve one and two-step word problems. Please remember it is still very important to practice basic addition and subtraction facts (within 20) at home. Flash cards are still available if you need them, and students may also use their ScootPad and Freckle passwords to practice math fact fluency online.



Our science unit continues to focus on states of matter. Students will be completing hands-on activities in small groups to explore solids, liquids, and gases.

We spent some time at the beginning of the month reviewing metacognitive strategies and ways students can "drive their brains". Later this month, we will learn more about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during activities integrating reading and social studies.

4th Grade News Mrs. Eber & Mrs. McCann

In ELA we are currently working on informational reading including mostly biographies. We will continue to read these types of texts after the holiday as well. With these types of texts, we learn about the text structure and if the story is told in first person or third person. We continue to write about the text using details and evidence to support our answers. Using capital letters and punctuation appropriately is coming along as we practice.

In math, we are finishing up area and perimeter problem solving using the standard formulas to find area and perimeter. The challenge to this is when the students are asked to solve a problem backwards beginning with an area or perimeter and then solving to find a missing length or width. We are relating this to real life with all of our work. We will soon cover geometry—lines and angles—for a few weeks before heading into fractions. Fact drill quizzes will continue on Fridays and used as a grade so be sure your child is practicing the basic facts for multiplication and division up to 12.

In science, we are still working on life science and learning about structures and adaptations of plants and animals in their environments. We will continue this into January and then begin physical science.

Encourage your child to read every night so he/she can continue to take AR tests and earn points and monthly reward for this goal.



Mr. O'Neal & Mrs. Rowley

Happy winter from 5th grade! We survived the holidays and are busy working and settling back into our regular routines! We are learning many new and exciting concepts this month! In language arts, we are continuing to work on literary texts. Students will respond accurately by using explicit details and examples from the text to draw inferences, summarize the text, and determine two or more main ideas while comparing two texts. Also, students have been working hard on strengthening their writing skills. Ask your child about what he/she is reading and writing about in school.

In math, we are finishing adding and subtracting fractions and will be starting multiplying and dividing fractions soon after. Students are learning many strategies for solving fractions, such as drawing models, interpreting expressions, and relating fractions to decimals, as well as solving real-world problems.

In science, we are continuing to study life science (invasive species) and physical sciences.

Please have your child practice math facts at home. Also, students should read for at least twenty minutes each night and come into school and take an Accelerated Reader test to help meet individual goals!

Your child should **bundle up** to come to school!
We will be trying to go out for recess as much as possible, once the cold weather breaks.



Mrs. Paton

Welcome back! I am glad to have all of the students back at school. I hope you all had a relaxing, joyful break spent with family and friends.

Continuing into January, students will be working on conflict resolution skills and then starting a career exploration unit.

Kindergarten through second grade will be exploring different community helpers as careers and how th

Third through fifth grade will be more focused on how individual interests can correlate to a career in the future.

Elementary career exploration is all about exposure and getting them familiar with what they like to do!



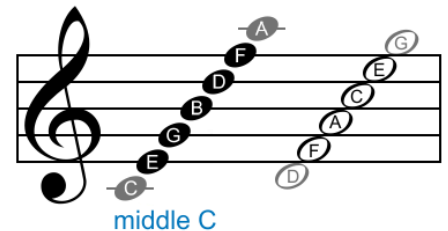
Extension Educator, Tammy Humberston

With a little bit of planning, snacks can go from “junk” to “healthy” super easy! Keep a bowl filled with fresh fruit handy, cut veggies on the weekend and keep them in the fridge for a quick bite, buy pretzels instead of chips, or make your own trail mix with nuts—seeds and dried fruit—(skip the M&Ms). And don’t forget all those empty calories in soda. Mix up a pitcher of ice water with lemon and keep that handy instead.



Mrs. McClay

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the K-2 Christmas Program. It is so nice to see music education so supported at our school.



Kindergarten will be learning some more musical games while first and second grades will begin to read real mu

Third graders will continue to learn more notes on their recorder. Please remind them to have it on music day. If they keep it in their backpack, it makes it easy!

Fourth grade will be singing a romantic song about a frog, and fifth grade will be learning all of the states in alphabetical order in the song "50 Nifty United States."

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Parent/family engagement is an important factor in the academic success of students. This plan describes how the Allegany County Public Schools will plan and support programs, activities and procedures for involving parents/families in all schools with a Title I program. The policy is also posted in our school and is on the Allegany County Public Schools' website: www.acpsmd.org.

Media News

Mrs. Robertson

It's hard to believe that we are well into the winter season already. The library media center continues to be busy with media skill lessons, computer coding, and students exploring makerspaces.

Kindergarten students will be continuing their unit stories about winter this month.

First graders will be starting an author study about Jan Brett. Her distinctive illustrations are unforgettable, and her stories are some of the best within the world of children's literature.

Second grade classes will begin their author study about Marc Brown. The students will often be seen checking out Jan Brett's predictive side panel illustrations or looking for Marc Brown's children's names that he hides within his book illustrations.

Third graders will explore book genres and identify and explore books belonging to each genre. They will all be involved in a "Kahoot" activity centered around this topic of study.

Fourth grade will be completing their study of the non-fiction section of the media center and will then be involved in research using these books.

Online and print research and proper bibliographic notation will be a topic of study for the fifth graders. In today's world of online resources, it is very important for students to be able to recognize reputable, trustworthy sources of information.



News from Nurse Kathy

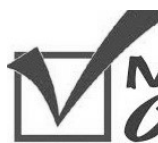


Dental screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish will be offered again this year for children in grades 1, 2, 3, and 5 by the Allegany County Health Department. No payment is required. The dental team will be visiting Cash Valley sometime between

January 10-22, 2020. Permission forms have been sent home for parents to complete and return to school. If your child has already received dental sealants, this is a chance for the teeth to be checked and re-sealed if needed.

Dental sealants are applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth where tooth decay occurs most often. The sealant acts as a barrier, protecting the teeth from plaque and acids that cause tooth decay. Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted on the teeth to help prevent or stop tooth decay.

If you have any questions about this program, please call 301-759-5030 or go to www.mightytooth.com. If you would like us to send a permission form home, please call the school nurse at 301-724-6632.



Mark Your
Calendar



January 10-22—Dental Sealants with permission forms

January 16—PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

January 17—End of 2nd Marking Period

January 20—Schools Closed, Martin Luther King's birthday

January 21—Schools Closed, Staff Professional Development

January 28—Report Cards are posted.

January 31—ELA Day at Cash, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

February 3—2-Hr. Delay, Staff Professional Development

Fundraising for Cash Valley Made Easy

⇒ **Shutterfly**—Many of us order photos from Shutterfly. Cash Valley can earn 8% of your order. It's easy—

- Go to CashValley.ShutterflyStorefront.com
- Choose Shutterfly
- Make a purchase

That's it! AND you can still use any promos that are being advertised on the Shutterfly site. The more people who purchase, the more Cash Valley earns. Tell your friends and family.

⇒ **Box Tops for Education**—Box Tops products are on your grocery store receipt. Check out BTFE.com to learn how to scan your receipt. OR, continue to send in unexpired Box Tops.

⇒ **Martin's A+ for Education Rewards**—We all scan our Martin's reward card to get those "deals". Why not make sure that Cash Valley is also earning money!

- Register at martinsfoods.com
- Designate Cash Valley, ID# 20269
- Up to two schools may be designated

Share this information with family and friends. To date, Cash Valley only has 284 cards registered for Cash Valley!

THE  St &
Found BIN
Your stuff misses YOU too.

Our lost & found box is overflowing with winter coats, hoodies, gloves, hats! We also have eyeglasses waiting to be claimed. Is your child missing an item? Have him/her stop by the office to help with a search.