

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

# MOUNT SAVAGE NEWS

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello. I hope everyone had a nice Holiday break. We are excited to announce our Pre-K and Kindergarten rooms are back in order and students have returned to their classrooms. In addition, I am excited to announce our elementary students will be working with our middle school Ag program. We have delivered incubators to our classrooms, and we are excited to hatch chicks for our upcoming chicken coop. Our students are looking forward to some springtime fun. Thank you for all you do to support our students. I appreciate you all.

--Dr. Holland

## CAFETERIA UPDATE



Every student in Allegany County Public Schools is assigned a unique lunch number to use when purchasing a school lunch. Please be sure that your student knows their number. If they are unsure, they may ask in the lunch line or you can contact the school. This number will be used their entire school career!

## NURSE'S CORNER

### THE 24 HOUR RULE

Attention parents and guardians,

Please help support our efforts to reduce the spread of illness among our students and staff by adhering to the following guidelines.

Should your child become ill at school or has experienced any of the following symptoms at home, please wait 24 hours after any of the following symptoms have stopped to allow your child to return to school:

- Fever above 100.4 (without fever reducing medicine)
- Upset stomach, including diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Sore Throat
- Sudden headache

If you are unsure, please contact your school nurse or your child's doctor.



## February Events

1st	Elementary to Braddock - Suessical the Musical 9:00am
6th-22nd	1st & 2nd Grade Krispy Kreme Fundraiser
7th	Elementary Extra Effort Awards 9:00am Middle School STARS Awards 9:00am
14th	Group/Club Photos
16th	All-County Middle/Senior Band Concert at Fort Hill 7:00pm 8th Grade Course Selections
20th	Schools & Offices CLOSED (Presidents' Day)
22nd	Croc Rock (Middle School) 6:30-8:00
24th	Maryland Food Bank 11:30-1:30

## March Events

1st	Schools CLOSED (Parent Conference Day) 10-11 (Teacher Plan)/11-2 (Conf)/3-5:30 (Conf)
9th	1st & 2nd Grade Krispy Kreme Delivery (2:30-4:00pm) All County Middle/High Orchestra Concert at Fort Hill 6:30pm
16th	Choral Assessments at FSU (8:30-12:30)
24th	3-Hour Early Dismissal (PM Teacher Work Time) End of 3rd Marking Period
31st	Honk, Jr Opening Night 7:00pm

## FROM THE OFFICE

*Please excuse...*

Attendance notes can be turned into the main office at any time. If your student was out due to illness, appointments, or vacation, please send any parent and/or doctor notes to the main office. They can be faxed to 301-264-4015, emailed to [msoffice@acpsmd.org](mailto:msoffice@acpsmd.org), or dropped off to the office.



301-264-3220



[msoffice@acpsmd.org](mailto:msoffice@acpsmd.org)



13201 New School Rd, NW  
Mount Savage, MD 21545

# PRE-K NEWS

Pre-K is ready to continue working hard and improve every single day. Throughout the year, we have been working on learning the letters of the alphabet and letter sounds. We are getting ready to begin writing the letters of the alphabet while still practicing letter recognition and sounds. In math, we are working on letter recognition and counting. We have had so much fun learning through hands-on activities and a multitude of manipulatives.

Accreditation is going well. We are halfway through the year and are checking all the boxes to pass by the end of the year. We are anxiously waiting to get back to our classroom. But for now, learning in the library has been an awesome experience! Thank you to the parents, teachers, custodians, and everyone in between who has helped repair our room.

I cannot believe the school year is halfway through and am looking forward to finishing the school year on a positive note. Watching Pre-K students grow and learn is so rewarding, and I am proud of each and every student.

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Hooray it is almost the 100th day!! Kindergarten students have been counting down to the 100th day of school, and this special day will be here sometime in February. Parents will receive a letter about the 100th day activities that will be occurring in the classroom.

Kindergarteners are also excited for Valentine's Day to arrive. Kindergarten will make their Valentine's Box Family Project for the Valentine's Day celebration. During reading, kindergarten students will continue to learn new Superkids characters, practice CVC words, learn new letters, etc. Weather will be the focus in science and we will be creating different weather activities/projects. For math, students will continue to work with ten frames, identify shapes, and compose/decompose numbers to 10. Also during the first week of March, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading many of his stories. There will be an activity or craft to accompany each book we read. We have a lot of exciting activities and celebrations in kindergarten!

## 1ST GRADE NEWS

Hello from first grade! The first graders have been working hard and doing lots of learning so far this winter. In math, we are finishing up adding and subtracting within 20 by using a variety of strategies and math tools. We will also be moving on to the following concepts: place value, comparing numbers, adding within 100 using a two-digit number and a one-digit number or a multiple of 10, mentally adding and subtracting 10 from a two-digit number. and moving on to counting and comparing numbers up to 120 by looking at place value. In reading, we will continue to learn new skills each week. We are learning new vowel teams and also contractions. Reading is getting very exciting for us! A major focus in reading will also be increasing our oral reading fluency (appropriate speed, expression and accuracy). You should be reading with your child every night to improve fluency. We are focusing daily on writing complete sentences and building on to write paragraphs. Over the next two months in social studies, we will be learning about geography and history (how things change). In science, we will be finishing up light and sound units and moving on to learn about space. We will also have a chance to begin our health units.

We will be celebrating our 100th day of school and Groundhog Day (We are hoping the groundhog does NOT see his shadow so we can have an early spring). We are looking forward to exchanging Valentine cards with our friends at school!



### A message from Snap-Ed: Cook & Taste Together

Hello parents and families!

Teaching healthy habits is a team effort! One fun way to continue the nutrition education message at home is to cook and taste with your child. Children are more willing to try new foods they help to prepare! Helping in the kitchen will develop self-confidence and creativity. You can spend quality time with your child while they learn important skills. There are a wide variety of tasks your child can help with in the kitchen - get them involved! Children can:

- Read the recipe out loud
- Wash fruits and veggies
- Tear lettuce for salads and sandwiches
- Snap green beans and asparagus
- Measure and add ingredients
- Set the table
- Pour milk and water to drink with the meal

## 2ND GRADE NEWS

Happy February! February brings many exciting things for second grade. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, the 100th day of school, and finishing up our handwriting program to be printing like an adult! Please continue to encourage your child to make their printed letters correctly. It's hard to break old habits, but we have declared that all letters and numbers will be formed correctly in our classes from here on out! Keep on the lookout for your child starting letters at the bottom of the line, reversing, or forming letters in an unusual way. The more your child practices correctly, the faster old handwriting habits will disappear. Everyone is so excited to begin cursive next!!

In math, students have been working very hard adding and subtracting two digit numbers, but look out! We're moving into numbers all the way up to 1,000! We will be comparing numbers, ordering numbers, and then learning to add and subtract up to 1,000!

February is one of our favorite months in second grade as your child will learn and grow so much!!



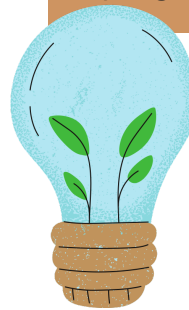
## 3RD GRADE NEWS

Holy cow....it's hard to believe we're past the halfway point in the school year! Time certainly flies by when you're working hard and having fun. In reading, we continue working in the CKLA curriculum. In the next few months, we will be reading about planets, Vikings, explorers and everything in between. In math, we are finishing up on finding the area of rectangles and will soon be moving on to fractions. Question: Who invented fractions? Answer: Henry the 1/8th.

Yeah...we don't get it either, but Mr. V and Mr. A promise that we will totally understand it soon. In social studies, we are learning about economics. Soon we will learn about Allegany County and what it was like living here in the past. Rumor has it, there's a train ride involved too...so stay tuned! In science, we are looking into measuring, collecting data and graphing. Soon we will be competing in the Metric Olympics! Yes...there are gold medals involved! We want to thank parents for helping us master our multiplication facts. As we're finding out, we need those facts for everything else we do in third grade.

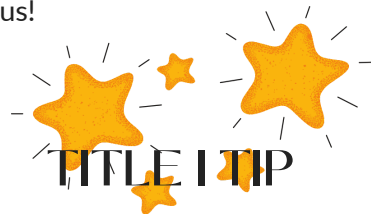
## 4TH GRADE NEWS

In Math, fourth grade will be working on multiplication and division strategies with larger numbers, and fractions and decimals during the months of February and March. Our units of study in ELA will be Contemporary Fiction and the American Revolution. We will be switching over from Social Studies to Science. Earth Science and Energy will be our first two units. We will be conducting some fun experiments during our lessons. We are looking ahead to Spring!



## 5TH GRADE NEWS

5th grade has been very busy with decimals in December and now on to fractions in January. We have been adding and subtracting fractions as mixed numbers. In social studies, we are learning about how our government works. In science, we are learning about chemistry through our reading series. We are trying to solve the *Case of the Missing Fossil!* We have all made a prediction of who we think stole the fossil and have been writing police reports and gathering evidence (from the text) to prove our case! We also have to use our knowledge of chemistry to help solve it. We are looking forward to our field trip to see the Seussical Play this week. We are also going to enjoy the AgLab! The Lab will park behind the school and teach our class about eggs! We also enjoyed a visit from an artist named Maggie, who came to us from Evergreen to teach us about environmental paintings. We are looking forward to our next visit from Evergreen as they teach us about planting crops. We will plant things in our window and get to eat what we grow! Thank you, Dr. Holland and Mrs. Rotruck, for organizing all of these events for us!



### TITLE I PARENT/FAMILY 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](http://www.acpsmd.org)

Wednesday

### PARENT CONFERENCES

March 1st

Conferences will be held according to the following schedule on March 1, 2023:

10:00am-12:00pm Teacher Planning

12:00pm-2:00pm Conferences

2:00pm-3:00pm Teacher Lunch

3:00pm-5:30pm Conferences

- Elementary School Conferences will be scheduled soon!
- Middle School Conferences are walk-in only, unless specific time is needed. Please contact Mr. Orndorff to schedule.



## 6TH GRADE NEWS

Sixth-grade language arts students will take part in a unit titled, "Through an Animal's Eyes" and focus on the essential question, "What can you learn from seeing the world through an animal's eyes?" Along with reading texts about a variety of animals, students will participate in a service learning project involving animals. By the end of the school year, all sixth graders should earn twelve in-school service learning credits toward the high school graduation requirement for service learning hours.

## 7TH GRADE NEWS

Seventh grade geography is working on a document based question (DBQ), titled "European Union: Do the benefits outweigh the cost?" DBQs require students to analyze multiple primary and secondary source documents and formulate that information into a well-constructed argumentative response. Following the DBQ, students will be learning about the physical and cultural geography of Eastern Europe and Russia. In math, students will be learning about statistics, graphical representations of statistics, and measures of center, variability, and probability. In science, students will be learning about human body systems. Along with the i-Ready program, students are continuing to practice writing in lab classes by writing their own autobiography. They are using the alphabet as a format and are working on editing and rewriting skills as they are presented in mini-lessons. In ELA classes, students are getting ready to dive into Unit 3: "The Terror and Wonder of Space." After reading a variety of texts, both fiction and nonfiction, students will be writing argumentative essays exploring the risks and benefits of space exploration.

The Ag Club is currently raising rainbow trout that arrived as eggs in December. They are also raising baby tilapia that hatched in our classroom on January 19th. Ag students will be painting new bee hives this month and they will also be building frames and foundation for the bee hives. Our bees will be arriving around the middle of April. Ag students will also be starting plants for the garden soon, and they will be designing a chicken coop that will be built here at school this spring!

## 8TH GRADE NEWS

On Thursday, February 16th, eighth grade students will participate in a meeting and see two presentations regarding high school course selection. Mr. Orndorff, in collaboration with the high school counselors, Mrs. Blank and Mrs. Ternet, will be sharing information with students about course selections, available programs of study, and graduation requirements. The week of February 20th, Mr. Orndorff will meet with each student individually to review their course selections and high school plan. The registration window for students to individually enter their course selections through their Aspen account is February 27th through March 3rd. Students who do not register for their courses by the March 3rd will have a schedule created for them.

Eighth grade students will be taking the MISA Science test on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 15th & 16th. Please try to make sure students are in school during this time and have had a good breakfast.

Frostburg States' Upward Bound program will be presenting information on their program to the eighth grade sometime in March. This is a "federally funded, pre-college program designed to provide students with the skills and motivation necessary to succeed in high school and college" according to their website <http://www.frostburg.edu/clife/ubp/>.

Anyone interested in more information should contact Mr. Orndorff.

MT. SAVAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

CROC  
ROCK

\$4

DJ ROB FEB 22nd  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
PIZZA SODAS

CROCS ARE COOL BUT NOT REQUIRED

## COUNSELOR NEWS

During the month of February, Mr. Orndorff and the counselors from Mountain Ridge will be meeting with eighth grade students to review high school graduation requirements and 9th grade course selections. A meeting for parents of eighth graders will be held in the evening to review high school course selection and graduation requirements. The date for this meeting will be forthcoming. The online course registration window for high school classes is scheduled to open at the end of February. Instructions on completing the online registration process will be sent in the mail.

In March, 5th, 6th and 7th grade students will be choosing creative arts classes for next school year. Students entering the 6th grade will choose any four of the following five creative arts classes: art, music, technology education, family and consumer science, and languages and cultures of the world. Students entering the 7th grade must choose the creative arts class that they did not take in 6th grade, plus three additional creative arts classes. Rising 8th grade students have two options for creative arts; the traditional 4 creative arts classes and P.E., or Spanish 1, ½ year of P.E., technology education and either art or music.

The Spanish 1 class offered in 8th grade is a rigorous course for high school credit and will count toward the student's high school GPA. Students who take Spanish 1 in grade 8 must take two additional classes within the same foreign language in high school to meet the foreign language completion requirement.

## NEWS FROM THE CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Our music department has a lot going on in the next few months. The All-County Band Festival will take place on February 15th and 16th with a concert at Fort Hill at 7:00 pm on the 16th. The All-County Orchestra Festival will take place on March 8th and 9th with a concert at Fort Hill at 7:00 pm on the 9th. These concerts are free and open to the public.

The Chorus is getting ready for Choral Assessments which will take place at Frostburg State University.

In Phys Ed classes, students are taking their mid-year fitness tests. Pacers and sit-ups are the order of the day!

The Saville Art Show will take place at the Saville Gallery in downtown Cumberland March 4th - March 25th. Several of our Mount Savage art students will be showing their work at this Art Show. Stop by and see the amazing talent of our young artists.

FACS students are making fruit smoothies, milkshakes, scrambled eggs, pancakes, and waffles this month. They are learning to practice food and kitchen safety procedures.

Spanish 1 students are learning about school life in Costa Rica. In Languages & Cultures of the World, 7th graders are learning Mandarin Chinese and 6th graders are about to start reading the book *El capibara con botas* in Spanish.

## Mt. Savage Middle School's Drama Underground Puts Their Best Beak Forward in the Musical Honk! JR.

Mount Savage Middle School's drama club, Drama Underground, proudly announces their spring, 2023 production of *Honk! JR.* This production will be live on the stage at Mount Savage Middle School one weekend only, Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 PM. All tickets are \$5 and are available at the door or online at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/71102>. This adaptation of the beloved fable of *The Ugly Duckling* focuses on creativity and compassion. With music by George Stiles, and book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe, *Honk! JR.* is based on the well-known story by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Ugly Duckling*, and the award-winning full-length musical *Honk*. This charming family musical conveys an important message, about being unique, and different.

*Honk! JR.* is adapted for a young cast, as a heartwarming celebration of being different. Through laughter, and a few tears, everyone can see themselves in this cast of cute to curmudgeonly characters. In this witty and hilarious, but also very touching show, the character of Ugly looks quite a bit different from his siblings, and it's starting to show. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite their mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, Ugly goes on an adventure of self-discovery, while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters, and finds out that being different is not a bad thing to be, especially with these funny fellows.

With an upbeat score and a run time of an hour and 15 minutes, this touching musical is perfect for all ages!

ON THE STAGE AT MT. SAVAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Drama Underground Presents

# HONK! JR.

Music by  
GEORGE STILES

Book and Lyrics by  
ANTHONY DREWE

MARCH 31 and APRIL 1, 2023 at 7:00

APRIL 2, 2023 at 2:00

Tickets \$5 Online or at the Door

