



# Cash Valley Connection

Hello Cash Valley families and happy 2024! The school continues to focus on academic, social, and emotional growth, while implementing the PBIS school-wide expectations of being responsible, respectful, and expert learners. Schoology remains the virtual platform for online assignments, communication, and the instructional tool during inclement weather. Schoology instruction is provided during inclement weather days, information is posted on the district/school websites. The next five snow days will be synchronous learning, meaning that teachers will be instructing live on Schoology. If you have any questions regarding Schoology and synchronous instruction, please contact your child's teacher. Congratulations to Sonja Belcher, third grade teacher, for being selected as the Cash Valley representative Teacher of the Year 2024-2025.

## Academics:

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) results were sent home with students. Contact teachers with questions.

Report cards for the second marking period are posted online as of 1/26/24. Remember that parents have the ability to monitor grades throughout the marking period by checking Aspen with their child's username and password. If you need assistance viewing the online report card or want a hard copy of the report card, please contact the office.

## Health:

As a reminder, students can bring water bottles to school and use the water filling stations installed in the main lobby and by the cafeteria for refills.

The Health Department provided dental checks and sealants to students returning permission forms.

Any changes in your child's health and medication, please contact Nurse Kathy.

## Title I:

A Title I parent meeting was held to review the family engagement plan and activities, along with a mid-year survey that was sent home to be completed. The parent feedback was very helpful in providing direction for future school-related activities. Thanks to all that attended or returned the survey!

Please review all information sent home for upcoming parent engagement activities. If you have any questions regarding Title I, please contact the school.

## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS):

We want all students to participate in school and have high attendance. It is the law and necessary to remain on-task with learning occurring in the classroom. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the school in order to document excused/unexcused absences. Students with high absent rates will be contacted by the Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) to see where support is needed. The school wants to collaborate with families to increase attendance with the common goal of student learning success.

For the second marking period, students participated in a classroom celebration by selecting from the prize jar, receiving cougar coins for the Treasure Tower, and being awarded charms in regards to academic grades/learning behaviors, character, reading/math/character improvement, attendance, and attaining the PBIS goals of being responsible, respectful, and expert learners. We are very proud of our students!

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team planned a family engagement activity centered on the topic of mindfulness. Mindfulness is being emotionally aware of yourself and the surrounding environment. For the at-home activity, families participating received a mindfulness calendar listing suggested activities to do with their children, a color page, and materials to construct a glitter jar. The mindfulness concept is integrated into the school-wide expectations, allowing students' self-reflection on school performance and personal choices.

With our partnership with MDSNAPEd, the school has been offered a \$500 grant for healthy movement activities. We have requested an additional movement path for the sensory hallway and some movement dice games for the classrooms to use for indoor recess.

## Events/Activities:

The school held a holiday program that included a performance from general education kindergarten, first, and second grades. The students had an awesome performance and enjoyed sharing some holiday spirit! A special thank you to Mrs. McClay, music teacher, for your hard work and organization. The SLE classrooms of Ms. Mizak and Ms. Lancaster, held a family holiday activity that included stories and crafts with families.

Each classroom will be participating in growing a specific vegetable through the Evergreen Elementary Edible Garden program. A presentation on the vegetable and daily care, along with all the materials to grow the item in the classrooms, is scheduled with each classroom. The goal is for the students to experience the process of plant growth and taste test the vegetable. A thank you to the STEM committee for organizing this activity.

Valentine's Day is coming soon! Students will participate in classroom Valentine activities on 2/14/24. **Just a reminder that due to allergies, no food (candy) will be distributed. Any food items sent to school will be returned home.** In place of food, the school recommends only cards or non-food treats such as pencils, dry erase markers, crayons, glue sticks, or inexpensive toys. Students will be receiving a cookie purchased by the PTO and made by the cafeteria staff based on allergy protocol. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Also, the PTO will be organizing a Valentine craft activity, more information will be sent home for volunteers.

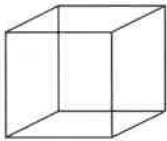
Our school motto is "Every Connection Counts" by focusing on safety, relationships, and instruction. Students are the main priority in all decision-making. Please communicate with teachers regarding any questions or concerns related to school. Inform the teacher how you would like to be contacted (email, Schoology, Dojo, notebook, phone, etc.) in order for communication to continue. Please provide updated contact information to the office for emergencies. The Cash Valley family is a great place to learn and grow, where everyone is welcome. Thank you families for continuously building a strong school-family connection!

Dr Stevenson, Principal

## PreK-4 News

Mrs. Perrin

We have been busy in Pre-K 4. The students have done a great job getting into a routine. We have started our Raising A Reader program. Every other week, the students are receiving a bag of 3-4 books to read at home. The boys and girls just finished the unit "Compare and Contrast," where we talked about opposites, different types of stories and living and nonliving things. The students experienced reading an e-book about construction and the various equipment that is used at a construction site. All of the letters of the alphabet have been introduced and we are now going back to revisit letters. Some skills to work on at home are identifying your child's name in print and letter identification. Students may practice writing their first name. In math, the class will continue learning about 2-D and 3-D shapes, length and height. You can find objects at home and talk about them with your child. In social studies and science, we have been building things using materials all around us. The students are able to identify different tools that people use to build specific structures. Students will continue to discover different acts of kindness in the classroom, at home and the community. In Health, we are discovering new foods based on the letters we are learning that week. The students listen to a story or video based on the new fruit or vegetable and talk about how it helps our body. Just a reminder to put your child's name on their blanket. We will continue to send home red Raising A Reader bags every other week.



## PreK-3 News Mrs. Pennington

This marking period we revisited Colors, Shapes and Sizes in Theme 3 and learned ways to be Safe and Healthy in Theme 4. We are currently exploring Favorite Tales and Rhymes including; "The Little Red Hen", "The Lion and the Mouse" and "The Three Little Pigs" as well as Nursery Rhymes with "Jack". Each unit/theme has a folder on our class Schoology page with resources and familiar songs, stories and videos you can share at home with your child. Have them retell one of the stories to you, it's great practice for their oral language and it's a hoot to hear them huff and puff like the big bad wolf! We continue to work on hearing, matching and producing rhyming pairs in words as this is a building block to later foundational reading skills. You can make up silly songs, rhymes and games to practice this at home. With our first Synchronous Snow Day we were able to get familiar with the platform and work out some of the bugs and glitches. Thank you for your participation and patience through this process. Please reach out and feel free to offer any suggestions or to ask questions on ways to make the transition to virtual learning more meaningful for your child.

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Nines & Ms. Sibley

Kindergarten is on it's way to the 100th day! We have spent half of the year learning all our letters, sounds and many words. Each day we work on blending and reading our words with our Superkids. In Math we have built numbers to 10, finding the number pairs that make a number. We have fun doing this using manipulatives, number bonds and will soon roll into number sentences! Evergreen Heritage is coming to Cash Valley to plant with us! We will have a lesson on plants and healthy foods, and we will plant Broccoli seeds! These plants will live in our room for us to take care of and hopefully eat! Speaking of healthy food, we have been enjoying our healthy food snacks on Tuesday and Thursday. We have had a variety including Snap peas, green peppers and grapes! Mrs Hawkins from Snap Ed also brings us healthy food. We recently tried hummus and we have even tried prunes! We look forward to the last 4 months of the school year!



# 2nd Grade News



Mrs. Rice & Ms. Murphy

Second grade has enjoyed writing about winter. We wrote step by step directions on how to make a snowman. Many of us had real life practice making a snowman on our snow days. We also decorated mittens and wrote clues about the mittens. Our classmates used our clues to guess which mitten belonged to which classmate. We focused on writing details to help our friends guess correctly. Everyone enjoyed the guessing game!! In math, we are continuing to work on addition and subtraction of two digit numbers using a variety of strategies. We will soon be starting three digit numbers using the same strategies, just adding hundreds. We are also learning how to count coins. Please help your child learn to identify the coins by sorting coins at home. Telling time using both an analog clock (face clock) and a digital clock will also be a focus during math. Help your child learn this important skill by having him/her tell you the time throughout the day. Learning about different Landforms is our new Social Studies Unit. We will be taking virtual fieldtrips to visit islands, caves, volcanoes and many more. Virtual fieldtrips are a great way to explore our world from our classroom. Second grade students had a very successful Synchronous Snow Day. We had a great time learning with our friends on a Big Blue Button conference. Please remember to log on at 8:30 if we would have another snow day. Please remember to charge the computer and return it to school along with the charging cord. Reminder: We will go outside if the temperature is at least 32 degrees so please dress warmly. Our play time is 11:00 and it often is still cold even if the afternoon is predicted to be warmer.

# 1st Grade News

Mr Steckman & Mrs Durrence

First grade is training their brains and working hard! We are learning many different spelling patterns in words. We just mastered adding -s, -ed, and -ing endings to words, long vowel patterns (like Super E!) and long vowel teams (When Two Vowels Go Walking, The First One Does The Talking!) We are reading all the time so please be reading at home as well. The more you read the more fluent you will be! We started fluency folders after our first round of DIBELS and do those daily. We are working in small groups often to master skills and become fluent readers. Our peeps love working on Superkids Online Fun and Amplify everyday! Every week we work on new memory words - these come home in the backpack pages throughout the week. Thanks for completing homework each night! Spelling tests will continue to be every Friday so make sure you are studying those words! In math, we just began our second unit! In this unit, we will be learning strategies for adding and subtracting within 20, and we will be collecting and comparing data! Please continue working on basic addition and subtraction facts with our first grade friends! Additionally, practice building, identifying, and writing teen numbers and practice our new strategies at home! We do 20 minutes of our iReady pathway each afternoon and the kids LOVE it! This is also something you can do at home! We will continue sending Math homework specific to what we are working on in class every Monday and Wednesday night. Please make sure during these cold winter months that you are sending a heavy coat with your child. As long as the real feel is above 32 degrees, we will be going outside for recess! It's hard to believe we are halfway through our first grade journey! We look forward to making more memories during this last semester.

# Grade 3 News

Mrs. Belcher & Mrs. Stouffer

Happy 2024! 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 fluency with their multiplication facts.

There are many websites that help students study their facts. We also sent home flashcards for students to practice, along with one minute practice drills. This is the focus of their math homework each night.

In reading, we are wrapping up our unit on Ancient Rome. Soon, we will have fun learning about the Vikings, and read about characters like Thor, Odin, and Loki!

If you are not sure about homework, check the assignment notebook. There, you will find out what we are studying. And, if there is a capital H beside the topic, this means your student has homework. If you have any questions, be sure to contact us. Thank you for partnering with us in helping your child succeed.



# 4th Grade News

Ms. Elwell & Mrs. McCann

Happy 2024!!! We are off to a great but cold and snowy start to this new year.

In ELA, we are learning how to read contemporary fiction using excerpts from the novel THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET. In this novel we are diving into the characters, theme, tone, figurative language as well as writing personal narratives and creating our own fictional story. After this unit, we will move into the American Revolution for historical nonfiction.

In Math, we are working hard on long division using the area model. We are applying this division to word problems and also how to interpret the remainder in the answer. Our goal for long division includes a four digit dividend dividing by a single digit. After these units, we will move into area and perimeter that applies both multiplication and division. However, in fourth grade we will only focus on squares and rectangles. Please be sure to practice both multiplication and division facts at home to allow more efficient work time for you child on math problems.

In Social Studies this quarter, we are learning about the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and how these wars changed life for Maryland. Included in these changes will be lessons on transportation, inventions and the immigrants that settled in Maryland. We are learning how important farming was in Maryland and still is today.

This quarter in Science, we will be focusing on Physical Science – speed and motion. Roller Coaster projects will be assigned in March. More information to come home on that later.

Please be sure your child is wearing a warm jacket or coat in case we go outside for a walk or recess. Also, a reusable water bottle is highly encouraged for the students.

Continue to stay warm!

# 5th Grade News

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! 5th grade has been busy with our Renaissance unit, comparing and contrasting text structures of informational texts, and practicing editing and revising with our Friday writing. Our Friday writing consists of the students responding to a prompt by writing, revising, and self and peer editing before completing their final copy. Ask your student what they have been writing about in ELA. In addition, when focusing on literary and in-texts in Language Arts, we practiced skills including finding the theme and main idea of a text and analyzing the characters and setting. Next, we will be completing our unit on The Reformation.

In Math, we have completed all four operations with fractions and decimals, metric and customary conversions, all within word problems. We are currently working on interpreting information from line plots, and will soon be evaluating numerical expressions, and classifying two-dimensional figures based on properties. 5th-grade students keep all of their mathematical skills sharp by completing daily fact practice, a daily spiral review of skills, multiple independent practice assignments, and adaptive pathways weekly.

In Science, we have started our spiral review of all science instruction from 3rd grade through 5th grade standards. We will be taking our MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment) science assessment in March and notifications on a final date will be sent home as we get closer to the date.

Please remember to continue to practice your math facts at home and complete your daily homework assignments found on Schoology. We will be going outside for recess as much as possible! Please remember to *bundle up and wear a coat to school as we will try to go outside for recess as much as possible!*



Mrs. Paton

Bullying prevention lessons have continued throughout the second marking period. Students have learned how to report bullying, with primary students focusing on the difference between reporting bullying and tattling, and intermediate students focusing on the importance of bystander power. A bystander is a person who sees or knows about bullying happening to others. Research shows how bystanders react can be one of the most powerful ways to reduce or stop bullying. A supportive bystander reports or helps report bullying, stands up for someone being bullied, is respectful and kind, and includes everyone. I also want to thank the families that participated in the Winter Mindfulness Week events. I hope you and your family enjoyed the activities and the information. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via phone 301-724-6632 or email [karina.paton@acpsmd.org](mailto:karina.paton@acpsmd.org).

## News from Nurse Miller

Still continue to screen your child(ren) of the following symptoms:

Fever of 100.4 or higher  
Sore throat  
Cough  
Difficulty breathing  
Diarrhea or Vomiting  
New onset severe headache especially with fever  
New loss of taste or smell

We want to make sure all students are at their best while attending school. If you have any questions, please call the health room to speak to our health nurse. Thank-you for all you do!



## News from our S.L.E Wing

Math learning can be supported at home. You are your child's first teacher, and research suggests that increased participation from parents enhances a child's ability to succeed. Here are some ideas to try at home.

- \*Play number games during everyday activities such as counting steps, items going in laundry.
- \*Use the calendar to count the number of days to a special event.
- \*Count the steps when walking up or down the stairs.
- \*Distribute an equal number of items to each person.
- \*Organize a scavenger hunt to find objects of different shapes.
- \*Collect objects. Sort them by color, size, or type.
- \*Play dominoes, dice & card games that require counting and score keeping.

Here are some reading tips. See what works best for your child.

- \*Read to your child every day.
  - \*Build your child's vocabulary by giving everything a name. Talk about interesting words & objects in the book. Example: "Look at the airplane! Those are the wings of the plane."
  - \*Read with fun in your voice. Use different voices & "ham it up"!
  - \*Know when to stop. Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.
  - \*Read it again and again if your child has a favorite book.

Frostburg State University will be hosting Motor Clinics beginning in February. There will be 3 sessions. Permission slips have been sent home. Please sign and return the form so your child will be able to attend.



## Important Dates and INFORMATION

February 6th—Kids Heart Challenge Begins (papers to be sent home)

February 12th—Marking Period 3 Title 1 Parent Meeting 9:00—10:00am (flyer sent), Science Center Visit for Pre Kindergarten

February 14th—Valentines Day Craft (optional) No food of any kind can be sent in due to allergies. Flyers sent home

February 19th—No School Presidents Day

February 28th— PTO Spirit Night @ Lavale Chic Fil A 5:15—7:00 pm (flyer to come)

February 29th—Career Day (flyer to come)



### PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents have the right to know the certification status of the teachers and instructional assistants who work with their children. You may get this information by making a written request to:

Mr. Christopher Cassell Chief Human Resources Officer

108 Washington Street  
P. O. Box 1724  
Cumberland, MD 21501-1724.

# TITLE I TIPS

Mr. Hill's Pre-K Partners class had a wonderful marking period 2. The students have settled into our school routines. Mr. Hill, Ms. Haley, and Mrs. Dawn have enjoyed getting to know our students better. We are moving right along and having fun learning. Our class is currently learning Frog Street Theme 5 Creative Me. We just finished learning all about construction and tools while building and creating things together. This week we are learning about using our imaginations and reading *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. During marking period 2 we completed Theme 3 Safe Healthy and Helpful Me and learned about community helpers, being kind and helpful, and our active bodies. In Theme 4 Compare and Contrast we learned about living and non-living things, real and make believe, and opposites. We are working on social interactions, recognizing letters and numbers, pointing to and matching pictures in our stories, counting, shapes, colors, and sizes. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.