



MOUNT SAVAGE NEWS

January / February 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday!

It's so good to see all of our students in the halls! There are several things going on the next couple of months! On Thursday, January 16th there is a family movie night for our elementary families. The movie will start at 6:00 PM. Some other important dates to remember;

Schools will be closed on Friday, January 17th and schools and offices closed Monday January 20th.

Reports cards will be released on Friday, January 24th

There is a 3 hour early dismissal Friday, February 14th

School will be closed Monday, February 17th

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page to stay up to date on

ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Happy Winter! We are 1/4 of the way through the Toolbox lessons. The next 3 "tools" are Empathy, Personal Space, and Using our Words. These tools help teach students how to have compassion for themselves and others. They teach students how to respect the space around them and others as lessons focus on learning personal boundaries. The students learn how to communicate effectively and learn clear and precise language when interacting with others. If you are following along on the chart sent home back in the fall, the students are building these next three tools onto the Breathing, Quiet/Safe Place, and Listening tools taught earlier this year. Please take time to talk to your child (ren) about the tools they are learning. They have great insight and examples that demonstrate excellent understanding of how they can and do apply their own self-management care. As always, please feel free to contact me at school any time you need help, have questions, or need support for your children.

Mrs. Stephanie Robison

School Counselor, LGPC

PARENT'S 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. Chris Cassell, Supervisor of Human Resources

108 Washington Street

PO Box 1724

Cumberland, MD 21501-1724

YOUR CHILD MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL WITH ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS



- Fever of 100.4
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New on-set of severe headache (especially with fever)
- New loss of taste or smell

TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD AND OTHERS

PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD
WITH ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE

First Grade!

Happy Winter Season! First grade will continue with lots of hands-on learning in math as we move into exploring number within 120. We will be learning place value with tens and ones and comparing 2-digit numbers. We will then move forward with adding and subtracting numbers within 120. As we progress in reading, we will be learning new sounds and spelling patterns to decode and read first grade stories. We are still concentrating on the daily task of writing in complete sentences with correct capitalization and ending punctuation. We will be covering light and sound in our upcoming science units and history in social studies. The 1st/2nd grade field trip this year will be on May 30th to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Fundraiser information will be coming soon. We cannot believe we are almost halfway through First Grade, and we are looking forward to all of the learning that will happen as we enter into the New Year of 2025!



Second Grade

Happy New Year!! Second Grade will be busy this winter! In math, we will be wrapping up money, working on telling time, and then adding/subtracting to 1,000. To help at home, practice counting mixed change, practice skip counting by 5's, and keep working on addition & subtraction facts! In writing, we will be working on our writing stamina, or being able to write more sentences with more detail. We'll be working on vowel teams in reading and learning about the cycles of nature. February will bring many celebrations with Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, Presidents Day, and finishing up our handwriting program to print like a grown-up! 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 in the spring.

SEVENTH GRADE

Over the next couple of months 7th grade students will be learning the following things in each of their classes. In Math students will be finding the area and circumference of circles and solving equivalent expressions. They will also be taking the mid-year diagnostic to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses. In Science students will be learning about cells and cell parts and then they will be introduced to the basics of human body systems. In social studies students are working on a Document Based Question (DBQ), which requires them to analyze a historical question, close read and contextualize multiple related documents and organize and cite evidence from those sources to support their answer in an extended response. We are also learning the geography of Latin America, including the countries of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as the countries of South America. 7th Grade ELA students are currently working in Unit 5 of the textbook. The Essential Question for this unit is "How do games impact our lives? Unit 5 consists of a short story, various informational texts, and a few poems. Additionally, the students will begin to prepare for spring testing.

EIGHTH GRADE

Mrs. Williams and the 8th grade S.H.O.P. students had a busy holiday season. It began with the Thanksgiving food drive. Students collected enough food to support 40 local families in the Mount Savage community. Following the food drive, S.H.O.P. organized the Winter Angel Tree which provided gifts for six families as well as two individual children. To support the gift drive, S.H.O.P. sponsored a holiday-themed spirit week to raise funds for additional gifts. The generosity of our students and staff helped to create meaningful holiday experiences for many families. Thank you, Mrs. Williams and S.H.O.P. students for the opportunity to serve our community in this way.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

There is still a small number of yearbooks for sale at the pre-order cost of \$30.00.

Once the books arrive in May, there will be a very limited number available at a cost of \$35.00, if you did not pre-order

Creative Arts

Elementary art students are busy investigating the art element texture. Themes this month are centered around winter and snow. Students are gaining inspiration from the world around them. In addition, third graders will be creating artwork inspired by the French artist Henri Matisse. Elementary artists are always working on improving their skills using different materials (media) and communicating through their art.



The Ag Club will be completing projects and activities to get ready for a busy spring. Ag students will be building honeybee swarm traps and they will be getting boxes and frames ready to be added to our current beehives in late March and April. Students will also be planting high tunnel/greenhouse friendly vegetables so that we can plant the high tunnel in mid March. We will be growing lots of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and zucchini in the tunnel and we will be growing lettuce, peas, and other vegetables under cold frames in our raised bed gardens.

Students have been working hard to finish up the second nine weeks. Students have been completing many projects and have been able to see the progress that they have achieved since the beginning of the nine weeks. Eighth grade students have been able to build a clay project. Clay is an art material that many of the students had never experienced before. Seventh grade has learned about several different art styles including pop art. And sixth graders have been studying color theory where they showed their mastery by painting their own color wheel. I am excited to see what students during the next nine weeks will create.

Mrs. Buskirk