

# Roye-Williams Elementary School February 2023



Upcoming Events!

# A Message from Mrs. Martino

Welcome to February! A month that reminds us to make sure we tell those we care about how much they mean to us. Mr. Single and I appreciate each and every one of our families and all you do to support our scholars, our teachers and our school. We are truly blessed to have such a caring and dedicated community of support. Thank you all!

The end of the second quarter was on Friday, January 27, 2023. Please make sure you have set up your Home Access Center (HAC) account if you have a child in grades K-5, so you can access your child's report card. You can set up your HAC account by going to <a href="www.hcps.org">www.hcps.org</a> and click on Home Access Center link next to the Calendar link. Also, if your child is in grades 3-5, you can go on HAC throughout the quarter to keep updated on their grades as they are posted several times throughout the quarter. It's a great way to stay informed regarding how your child is doing academically.

We are always looking for parent volunteers that would like to support within our classrooms, in the cafeteria and during our PTA sponsored events. The PTA holds their meetings on the third Wednesday of every month. Odd months are in person starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center and even months are held on Zoom. Please consider joining us and seeing all the ways to support our school.

Please make sure you visit Roye-Williams Elementary Facebook page. We post happenings at school and pictures of our students and staff hard at work. Also, please update your phone number with the office if it changes. We send out our Connect calls to parents and we have noticed it is only having about an 82% success rate. However, we have a 99% success rate with the email delivery. You can go on the portal to determine which type of delivery you would like, so please make sure you update phone numbers if needed and choose what mode of delivery you would like: <a href="https://hcpsparentconnect.bbcportal.com/">https://hcpsparentconnect.bbcportal.com/</a>.

Friday, February  $10^{th}$  – Report Cards Posted to HAC at 5pm Tuesday, February  $14^{th}$  – Last Day for Claire's Fundraiser Wednesday, February  $15^{th}$  –  $2^{nd}$  Grade Field Trip to the MD Science Center Thursday, February  $16^{th}$  – House Day Early Dismissal for Students 12:30pm Friday, February  $17^{th}$  – School Closed for Students Monday, February  $20^{th}$  – Schools Closed for Students and Staff – President's Day



# Pre-K



- Define and compare characters
- Letters Rr, Kk, Aa
   (Identify, construct, tell sound)
- Snap words we, read
   (Read word, build word, copy word)
- Pencil Grip
- Write and draw dinosaur facts



- Number 7 (Identify, make sets, sequence)
- Big & small
- Short & tall
- Add one more
- Take away one more
- Simple addition and subtraction problems

- > Schools are closed February 20th.
- > Early Dismissal- February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- > Wear Sneakers Everyday.
- > Check ClassTag Daily.





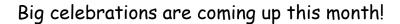
February:

Carree G- 2/8

Roman 5- 2/9

Isaac C- 2/15

# Dear Kindergarten Families,





- \$\sim \mathbb{b}\$ 100 day! Scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023! Watch for some fun home activities!
- ❖ Valentine's Day! ♥ Tuesday, February 14, 2023! Watch for invitation/party instructions from your homeroom teacher.

# Units of Study:

Math: Topic 8-More Addition and Subtraction

and Topic 9-Count Numbers to 20

Reading: Super Powers
Phonics: Word-Part Power
Writing: Writing for Readers

T.U.B.: Polar Animals





#### We have a few reminders:

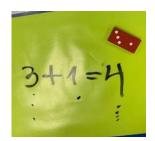
- 1. Warm clothes...be prepared...the cold is coming!
- 2. Water bottles: Yes please! But be careful they DO NOT LEAK.
- 3. Yellow Take-Home Folders: Please check, student completes homework, and return.
- 4. Tuesday Folders: Please check, empty, and return.
- 5. Chromebook practice: Can your young scholar log all the way on WITHOUT adult support?
- 6. Sneakers: Boots keep up warm, but sneakers let us climb the equipment! Students can pack their sneakers in their backpack for easy access for P.E. and recess. (We go outside, even when it is cold, around 40°.) You can also check your Inclement Weather button on Canvas to find out what days your child has P.E.

As always, we are here with you and for you!

Your kindergarten teachers,

Mrs. Kalmanovich, Mrs. Docteur, Ms. Richardson, and Mrs. White







# **Our First Grade Classroom News**

## February 2022

Ms. Beard, Ms. Haney, and Mrs. Mann

## **Message From Our Team:**

Our first-grade friends are now practicing to become second graders! We are still being safe, respectful, and reflective in the school and towards others. We are now working to build independence within the classroom. We are working on strategies to try in reading, writing, and math when we are stuck on a word or a problem. We are also promoting independent strategies to manage our emotions and develop stronger social relationships with others.

#### **Reminders:**

Please make sure that your student arrives to school with a charged computer. We use these computers for many educational activities. Please make sure your child has a lightweight jacket that they can wear in the classroom. Outside jackets must be placed in the lockers and only worn outside. Your student should also have an extra set of clothes to keep in their locker for emergencies. Lastly, make sure that you are connected to your child's ClassTag page! We appreciate your support with this!

### **Supporting Your Student at Home:**

Read nonfiction books at home! We are learning about the world in class, so you can ask your student what new words or facts they have learned in class. To help with math, ask your child, "what is this problem asking us to do?". Find objects around the house (paper clips, pennies, pencils, etc.) they can use to visually see the problem. Continue to review our snap words with your child. Ask them to listen for the sounds and find the tricky parts of the words! We have been learning more and more snap words each day!

#### What We Are Learning This Month:

**Reading:** As readers, we will be learning about the world around us and reading nonfiction books! We are learning strategies to learn the meaning of new words, read bigger words, and teach others!

**Math:** As mathematicians, we will be working on place value with tens and ones in Topic 8! **Writing:** As writers, we will be writing nonfiction chapter books about a topic were an expert on! We will be using text features and craft moves, such as comparisons, to help teach our readers.

**Social Studies/Science:** In Social Studies, we will be learning about geography. We will be looking at our place in the world, our impact on the environment, and transportation!





#### MATH

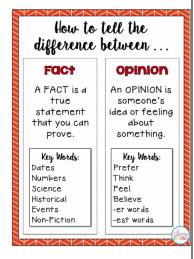
We just wrapped up Topic 6—Fluently Subtract Within 100 and Topic 7—More Solving Problems Involving Addition and Subtraction. We will then be moving on to Topic 9—Numbers to 1,000 and Topic 10—Add Within 1,000 Using Models and Strategies.

Attached is a link to virtual manipulatives for your child to use at home (they are used to using the hundreds charts, two-colored counters, tens frames, part-part-whole, and number bonds), but they may use any manipulative that will help them with their homework and math practice.

- + **CLICK HERE** to access virtual math manipulatives.
- + <u>CLICK HERE</u> to access online math games on <u>Math</u> Playground. We suggest choosing games that practice addition and subtraction skills.
- + **CLICK HERE** to access games on Fun Brain.

## WRITING

Our current writing unit is Writing About Reading. In this unit, students learn what an opinion is and how it differs from a fact. Then, they used books they love to form opinions about their favorite/least favorite characters. favorite parts of the book, why someone should read this book, etc. and wrote letters to convince their audience of their opinion. Please continue talking to your child about facts versus



opinions and giving examples of each.

#### **PHONICS**

We are so proud of our students on being master word builders in our current Phonics Unit—Word Builders: Construction, Demolition, and Vowel Power. In this unit, students use what they know about spelling patterns to break up big, long, and complex words to say and spell.

Also, please continue to support your child in practicing their Snap Word Celebrity levels. For each level, students are expected to read each word and spell it. Reach out to your child's teacher so you know what level they are on. CLICK HERE to access each word list.

#### READING

We have finished our Winter reading assessments and we are so proud of all the growth our students have made since the beginning of the year. Your child's teacher should have sent home their mid-year assessment scores. If you did not receive them, please reach out to their teacher.

We are currently in our Tackling Longer Words and Longer Books reading unit. In this unit, we have worked on tackling challenging words in our texts as well as building our reading stamina to read longer books.

Please make sure your child is reading a minimum of 20 minutes each night and getting their reading log signed. If you need a new reading log, reach out to your child's teacher.

 CLICK HERE to access read aloud books from Storyline Online.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

 As the weather is getting colder (and fluctuates), please, if possible, send your child in with a zip-up jacket/sweatshirt to store in their locker.

- + **FEBRUARY 14**<sup>TH</sup>—Valentine PTA Pencil Gram delivery
- + **FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>**—Field Trip to the MD Science Center
- + **FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>**—PTA Meeting (online) @ 6:30 (see Classtag as it gets closer for the link to the meeting)
- + **FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**—Early Dismissal Day (House Day)
- + **FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**—No School

Any questions? Please reach out to your child's teacher via ClassTag or email.

Ms. Cox - emily.cox@hcps.org

Mrs. Kent – teaira.kent@hcps.org

Mrs. Nasuta – melody.nasuta@hcps.org

Mrs. Prichard – jamie.prichard@hcps.org

Ms. Waeltz – kathryn.waeltz@hcps.or



# READING AND WRITING UNITS OF STUDY

Students have put on their detective hats and are currently solving mysteries in their texts. They are learning to make predictions, gather evidence and learning more about character traits and feelings. They are putting those away and starting a unit focusing on Character Studies.

For writing, students will be starting "Baby Literary" Essays where they will be sharing their opinion about the characters in their books.

# MATH

Students are now Topic 8 where we will move to addition and subtraction.

Students should also continue working on their math fact fluency! First in Math is a great resource that they can assess at home.

Lastly, students should be spending time at home on Dreambox. This targets your student's specific needs.

# SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Students are moving into the next unit of science where we focus on learning all about physical science.

We will be finishing their unit all about economics where they have been reading a book about Danny who is becoming a millionaire.

# REMINDER OF HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

**Reading** 20 minutes nightly Math Page Aligned with lesson of the day Math Support

Dreambox

# 4th Grade News!



We are working so hard in fourth grade! We are learning so much new information and applying it daily. We love seeing their growth!

**Reading** has been a blast this year! The students have done a great job choosing their novels to read while keeping in mind what books are best for them! This month begins our historical fiction book clubs! It'll be a so exciting having them work

together and learning from one another!



Writing correlates perfectly with our reading unit! We will be using the information we gather from our novels to help us write out historical fiction writing essays! Students are excited about their topics and have been learning so much about these important historical events!

**Math** has been full of new information for our students to use in the real world! They are now able to use all 4 operations to solve problems: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division!

# Dates to Remember:

Thursday, February 16th- Half Day for students

Friday, February 17th- Schools Closed

Monday, February 20th- Schools Closed (Holiday)

# February Fifth Grade Newsletter!

Our  $5^{\text{th}}$  grade team hopes your new year has been good to you so far. We have ended the  $2^{\text{nd}}$  quarter! Please make sure you are checking HAC and keeping up with your child's grades as we are changing semesters. If you have any questions about grades, please contact your child's teacher.

In math, we are working on Unit adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. We encourage students to complete any math homework that is sent home, it will help them understand concepts in the future!



In reading, that have a book bag that they will bring home

each night. PLEASE make sure they bring it back and forth. They are encouraged to read at home each night for a half hour. Our reading unit is Argument and Advocacy. When your students are at home, they can read a book of their choice!

In writing, we are focusing on Debates and Argument writing. They will be learning how to construct an argument using books, videos, and other forms of media. They must back up their claim with researched evidence. As they progress the students will be writing 5 paragraph essays with a thesis statement.

Our **Learn with Me** will be February 16, 2023, 10:30-11:30. Please come join us for some reading fun! Your children have been working so hard it's time to give them an amazing celebration!

As Always, the grading scale is below. Questions? Please contact your homeroom teacher

All grade levels please note competency guide below:

Primary	Intermediate	
CE	A/B	Consistently completes work independently and applies grade level skills taught independently. Students are on or above grade level.
EV	B/C	With minimal prompting, completes work and applies grade level skills taught. Students are on grade level.
DV	C/D	Teacher support is necessary to complete daily classwork and to apply skills taught. Students are on or approaching grade level.
NE	D/E	Students require adult support and prompting to complete daily tasks. Students are below grade level.

#### Contact:

Sara.Xakellis@hcps.org Madison.Diventi1@hcps.org Kersten.Kirkendall@hcps.org Eileen.Dixon@hcps.org Alisa.Janiski@hcps.org

# **Cultural Arts Team (CATs)**

Media, Music, Physical Education, and Art



We will be continuing with our Digital Citizenship unit. Students are going to be continuing to learn how to have some media balance, stay safe online and what our digital footprints are and how they can affect us.

We have been using our devices in media with grades 2 -5 but we will now be starting to use them with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. It will be very important to have students charge their devices every night so that they will be able to use their device during media.

Students have access to a lot of free resources on the Harford County Public Library. All students have been given a HCPL username and password. They will need to navigate to their media page and click on digital resources. There is an icon that says School Support Central. That is the information for HCPL. One of the great resources that they have is a homework help section. If students need help with their homework, they have access to one-on-one tutoring. If you have any questions, please let reach out to us.

# **Physical Education**

# Mr. Schubert and Mr. Lamartina's Classrooms

# **Unit: Fitness**

Pre-K and Kindergarten: We will be working on recognizing when we move our hearts beat faster. Students will be able to identify some heart healthy foods and learn some new exciting exercises.

1st and 2nd Grades: In 1st and 2nd grades we will also be identifying healthy foods, as well as learning how to find our heartbeat. We will also be finding different activities that we can do to increase our heartbeat, and we will be playing games that accomplish this as well.

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades: Students will be identifying healthy foods, as well as activities that are good for physical fitness. They will also be learning the fitness components, how nutrition affects fitness, and be participating in fitness testing.

Reminder!! Please wear appropriate clothing for Physical Education, this includes closed toed and backed shoes, with no heels (sneakers). Shoes should also be able to be tightened (Laces or straps). Be sure to wear loose fitting clothing that is easy to move in as well.

# Art



#### News from Mrs. Price's Art Classroom:

**Pre-Kindergarten** students will use a variety of methods to print hearts.

In February, **Kindergarten** students will create self-portraits.

**First Graders** will be inspired by Gustav Klimt's gold patterned painting style and create either a vase or a cat.

**Second Grade** students will create a Romero Britto inspired heart-themed art project. We will also paint a color wheel.

**Third Graders** will be demonstrating an understanding of contrast by using complementary color pairs in the drawing of lightbulbs.

This month, **Fourth Grade** students will use intermediate colors in the creation of wooden relief sculptures.

**Fifth Grade students** will finish their birch tree landscapes. Next, we will use a variety of painting methods to create textured papers. We will use the textured papers to create a lighthouse collage.

\* ^Artwork credit (left to right): Preston Pilgrim (4), Nelina Diodato (PK), Araceli Ford (4)

## **News from Ms. Benedetto's Art Classroom:**





**Kindergarten** will make color wheel snowflakes and use modeling materials to create forms.

**First Grade** students will learn to mix primary colors to create secondary colors in an artwork.

**Second Grade** students will learn about warm and cool colors and paint chameleons in a forest.

Third Grade students will use symmetrical cutouts to finish their Notan collage.

**Fifth Graders** will use their knowledge of value to finish their festive lights or optical illusion artwork.

# Music Notes

# What's Coming Next?

In general music, our **Pre-K and K** students will be using their singing voices, their rhythm skills, and movement to continue learning the remainder of the musical opposites. These are fast/slow, high/low, loud/soft etc. They will additionally be learning more about beat vs rhythm and ostinatos.

1<sup>st</sup> grade general music students will be finishing their so-mi-la practice and moving on to a review and application of their musical opposite knowledge.

Our **2<sup>nd</sup> grade** students have done so well on their xylophones. They are moving on now to a review, extension, and application of their musical opposite knowledge.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will continue learning how to play their recorders and will begin testing for their first "belts". They are doing very well!

4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be continuing their unit on Boomwhackers. They are learning how to work as a team and build their aural listening skills as well as their note reading and rhythm skills.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will finish their unit on chords and compose a melody with a chord progression underneath. Then they will begin their unit on ukuleles. They will learn how to hold, play, and strum chords and play various songs.

# Band, Orchestra & Chorus

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade musicians are continuing to practice for the Spring Concert.

**Chorus** students are refining their vocal techniques and developing a better blended sound as a group.

The **Band and Orchestra** students will be starting new concepts to advance their abilities. The Band students will be starting to learn scales and the Orchestra will be starting with the bow. Of course, this new knowledge will be stacked on what they have been learning until now. We will also be talking about Band and Orchestra in Middle School and how to successfully practice at home.

# RWES Music Staff

Mrs. Stephanie Harris – General/Vocal Music Teacher
stephanie.harris@hcps.org
Mrs. Morgan Calhoun - General/Vocal Music Teacher
morgan.calhoun@hcps.org
Mr. Tony Domenico, Jr. – Instrumental/General/Vocal Music Teacher
anthony.domenico@hcps.org

# CARD GAMES AND MATH PRACTICE

Let's play a game of cards! Studies show cognitive benefits to play and how card games teach children new strategies for using mathematical information, categorizing patterns, sequencing, and sorting. Finally, this is numeracy practice the whole family will enjoy (though things might get a bit competitive... beware!).

Card games change children's perception of learning about numbers in a positive way, help take the fear out of math and allow them to build their number confidence without worrying about making mistakes.

The draw of a screen, for pleasure or learning, is enormous these days for children. So, getting back to basics with a tangible pack of cards provides children with a practical and tactile experience. Children are learning without realizing it and exercising a whole host of other skills too, from turn-taking and communication to problem solving and teamwork.

A simple pack of cards allows children to practice many different elements of math, from core skills like addition and subtraction to more complex concepts like fractions and probability. Alongside conventional card games there are many which have been adapted to help children develop a particular skill like strengthening number bonds or getting to grips with positive and negative numbers, for example. So, when your children say they are bored, pull out a deck of cards and trick them into playing games while learning important math skills.

# Check Out these Websites for Game Ideas

28 Card Game to do at Home <a href="https://www.weareteachers.com/math-card-games/">https://www.weareteachers.com/math-card-games/</a>

Games with Uno Cards https://primaryplayground.net/5-math-games-to-play-with-uno-cards/

# **The Literacy Corner**

Join us in celebrating the following classes and students for the reading work they have done in December and January!

#### **Snap Word Celebrities:**

Students K-2 are working hard on writing and reading their Snap Words. Here are our current students who have passed level 1!

To practice Snap Words at home, try one of these online games!

- Sight Word Smash
- <u>Kitten Hop</u>
- Sight Word Bingo



#### **Reading Stamina:**

Our students around the school have been practicing their stamina during reading. Here are our Stamina winners who read the longest in their grade level.

To continue increasing reading stamina at home, attempt to read or listen to a book for 15 minutes each night!

#### Letter License:

Kindergarten has been working hard with their letters. Here are our drivers with which level they are currently on. They are working towards earning their letter license!

To practice letters and sounds at home, try one of these online games:

- Alphabet Bingo
- Sound-Letter Match
- Capital-Lowercase Match







# **RWES HEALTH SUITE NEWS- February 2023**

During the month of February, the American Dental Association celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month. This month-long national health observance reinforces the importance of oral health in children as well as helping parents with tips to keep their child's smile on track!

- Start brushing with the first tooth. Begin brushing your baby's teeth when you see one coming in with an infant toothbrush. Use water and a tiny bit of fluoride toothpaste (about the size of a grain of rice).
- Brush twice each day for two minutes. Children ages 2-6 should use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. Always supervise kids younger than six years old while brushing, as they are more likely to swallow toothpaste.
- Begin flossing. Once your child's teeth touch, you can start flossing in between them.
- Snack healthy! Fruit juice, sports drinks, fruit snacks, and sticky candies all pose serious threats to your child's teeth.
- Keep them hydrated!
- Replace your child's toothbrush every 3-4 month.

## **HEALTHY HEART MONTH**

The American Heart Association says that smartphones, tablets, televisions, and other screen-based devices are making kids more sedentary - and sedentary behavior is linked to being overweight and obesity in young people. Excess weight in young people often correlates to health concerns in adulthood. The American Heart Association, though, reminds us that we are never too young or too old to take care of our hearts and our health! Embracing a healthy lifestyle and establishing good habits at an early age go a long way toward avoiding heart disease and other illnesses over the course of a lifetime. Ideal heart health for kids focuses on daily exercise, no tobacco use, a healthy weight, a healthy diet, and normal blood pressure, total cholesterol and blood sugar.

- Choose healthy, nutritious foods- heart heath foods are low in saturated and trans-fat. And lots of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and fish.
- Do not smoke- Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, and tobacco damages the lungs, and heart by making it difficult to breathe.
- Exercise and maintain a healthy weight- For children, the American Heart Association recommends at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity aerobic exercise every day.
- Limit screen time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics,
- Limit alcohol consumption
- Keep stress in check!

Amy Piccalo BSN, CPN, RN RWES School Nurse 410-273-5536 410-273-5559

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS/PARTY INVITATIONS AT SCHOOL

<u>Birthday Celebrations with food (cupcakes, cake, donuts, etc.) cannot be held at school. HCPS has a Wellness Policy which can be referenced online @ www.hcps.org.</u>

We respectfully request that birthday/party invitations not be sent to school for either the child or teacher to distribute to other students. This disrupts the educational environment of our school, and we would appreciate your cooperation with this important policy.



## \*\*\*\*BUS LOOP REMINDER\*\*\*\*

Cars are not allowed in the bus loop from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m. daily. Please adhere to the posted signs and guidelines and use the upper parking lot during these times.

# Student Pick-Up and/or Changes in Dismissal

Parents are asked to write a note to your child's teacher if your child's dismissal procedure is going to change on any day. Teachers are instructed to send all students home using their normally dismissal mode, unless there is a note identifying an alternate transportation method. We respectfully ask you not to call the school to change your child dismissal procedures, as we need a note to make any dismissal changes. If you are changing your child from bus rider to car rider status for the day, we prefer a note. However, you may do this by phone, but we will **NOT** make any changes to dismissal procedures **after 3:00 pm and 12:00pm on early dismissal days.**Additionally, to have a safe and orderly dismissal, we ask if you are picking up your

Additionally, to have a safe and orderly dismissal, we ask if you are picking up your student for an appointment on an early dismissal day, please pick up your student prior to 12:00 p.m. on the early dismissal days. Please keep in mind on early dismissal days students are considered absent for the entire day if they do not attend more than 2 hours of the ½ day. Additionally, on regular schedule days, if students are picked up early, they will be marked as "early dismissal" on these days. The Maryland Department of Education keeps track of student attendance including tardy and early dismissal. Please help us to ensure students are present for the entire school day.

