



BULLDOG EXPRESS

A.G. Richardson Elementary

Volume 12, Issue 6

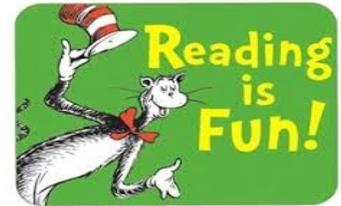
February 2020

Third Grade finishes learning about Ancient Greece and Rome

February holds a number of new topics for our third graders. We will continue to work through our ancient civilizations unit with ancient Egypt and China. Students look forward to learning the history of these cultures, how they have evolved over time, and how they still play a big role in our lives today. Over the entire unit, students will learn about Egypt, China, Greece, Rome, and Mali. We will celebrate all of them with Ancient Civilizations Day at the end of March.

In math, we will be taking the Benchmark 3 Test. Topics on this assessment include money, temperature, multiplication and division. These skills can easily be incorporated into discussion and practice at home. If you need any ideas, be sure to contact your child's teacher. Students are excited about mastering their multiplication facts. The more comfortable your child is with the basic facts the better! After taking the Benchmark Test, we will begin geometry, probability and statistics.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day this month. Be on the lookout for specific details from your child's teacher regarding classroom celebrations.



Dr. Seuss' Read Across America activities are planned to promote reading. In an effort to reach more children with our planned reading activities, we have decided to incorporate these activities, school wide, during the week of March 4th - 8th. Be on the look out for additional information regarding this week's events. It will be coming home soon. We anticipate a fun time will be had by all! We can't wait!

From Reading Resource

Does the winter cold have your family dreaming of summer?

Put your child in charge of planning your summer vacation.

Ask him/her to research places you are thinking about and report on his/her findings. If you are not planning to travel, he/she can research local day trip destinations. It is a great way to use those computer and reading skills. Research skills are an SOL and are taught as early as first grade.



♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

Updates and Cold Weather Tips From the Nurse

Keep Us Updated Please

Please remember to call the school to report any changes in your address, phone numbers (including cell phones) or place of employment. It is vital for us to be able to contact you in case of an illness or injury. Please do this for the safety of your child.

Cold Weather Tips

Chapped lips can cause your child discomfort. I have seen many children in the clinic for this problem. Remember on these cold days to

protect your child's lips with chap stick and their face with non-scented lotion. This will help prevent chapped lips and cheeks. It is a great idea to have a tube of chap stick at school for your child to use as needed (label with their name and they can keep it in their backpack or desk). Also, remember to have gloves and a hat for your child. Unless it is bitterly cold or windy, our children have recess outside every day. We do have some extra gloves and hats in the clinic and guidance department, if finances are a problem.

Bring a coat, gloves and a hat every day to school!



Kindergarten explores the Five Senses

During the month of February, Kindergarten will be exploring the Five Senses. There will be a special visit from the Tooth fairy and a doctor to discuss Healthy Heart. We have been working on money. Please review coins with your child at home. While, most students have the alphabet by this time of the year, it is imperative that they continue to practice. We encourage your child to practice their sight words and read each night.

ACE Updates

Each ACE class started a new unit at the beginning of the semester. The new units are ACE 2 - "Logic", ACE 3 - "Ancient China & Ancient Egypt", ACE 4 - "Spatial Reasoning", ACE 5 - "Debate". ACE 2 students will learn to solve problems including analogies and deductive reasoning and will be working with Mr. Ortman to create a digital puzzle as a final project. ACE 3 students will be analyzing the two cultures for similarities and differences as they learn about the basics of systems and civilizations. ACE 4 students will be extending their knowledge of geometry into the 3-dimensional world. Finally, ACE 5 students will be learning the basics of debate, researching a debate topic and debating the topic with classmates.

Fifth Grade News

January has flown by and February is upon us! It might be the shortest month of the year, but it is also one of the most important months. Throughout February, we will be working on the reading skills drawing conclusions, generalizations, and graphic sources. During the month, we will be focusing our attention on standard and metric measurement, circles, variables, and statistics. Again, any help you can give us with practicing our multiplication facts would be beneficial! In science, we are continuing to explore the planet Earth by looking at the Oceans. As always, thank you for keeping your children healthy and making sure they get to school on time every day. We appreciate it!





1st Grade is working hard in February

Groundhogs, Valentines, Presidents, and Black History Month is what February brings to First Grade!

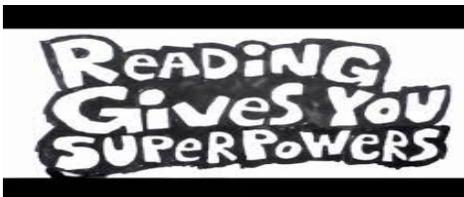
In reading, we continue to read long vowel words and learn the different rules. Encourage your child to tell you about how “e” on the end makes the first vowel say its long sound. Also, have your child tell you about some of the two vowel combinations that also say a long sound. Don’t forget to review those short vowels, too. We will be teaching some special sounds that will help your child’s reading. Please go

over your child’s reading worksheets and ask your child to teach you what he/she has learned.

In math, we continue to explore addition and subtraction! A great idea to do with your child is math storytelling. Your child can draw a picture to tell the story. For example: A little boy has 5 balloons. 2 balloons flew away. How many balloons are left? Your child can draw a picture of the story to help him/her find the answer. Then he/she can write the number sentence. Also, we are working on time to the hour and half hour, counting money, equality, and fractions.

As always, please remember to do homework with your child each evening, 10 - 15 minutes is all you should need to reinforce the learning that is happening in school.

The first grade field trip to Riverside Theatre is scheduled for Thursday, February 6. We are excited to see The Cat in the Hat!



Second Grade Works on Math Facts

Second grade enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of school!

In math, students are continuing to practice counting coins up to \$2. Parents, please periodically review the basic subtraction and addition facts with your child so it will help them continue to show growth with computation. Reflex math is a great way to practice at home. It also may be helpful to encourage your child to explain their thinking. We will also be exploring fractions this quarter.

Language arts instruction remains an important component of daily instruction in second grade. With the chance for winter weather, our weekly homework and testing schedules may be altered. Please help us with this by reading your child’s agenda nightly. The students are very excited to begin to learn cursive writing.

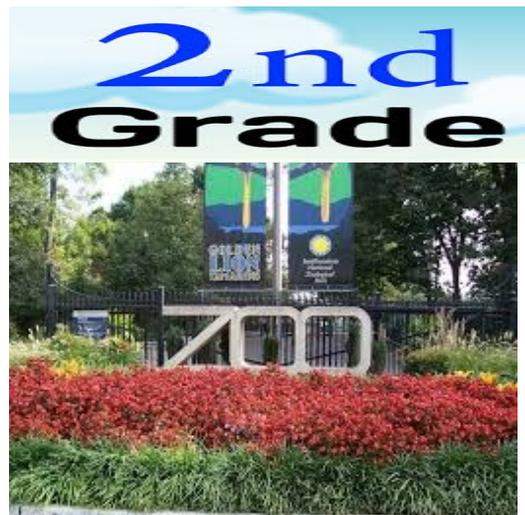
Everyone is looking forward to exchanging cards for Valentine’s Day. More information will be coming soon!

Always remember to send your child to school with appropriate clothing for the weather. Students who do not

have heavy jackets on cold days will not be able to go outside for recess. Information about the zoo field trip on April 8th was sent home in December. All chaperones must be approved and fingerprinted through the AppGarden Volunteer tracker online. Background checks must be completed by February 21st. T-shirt information will be coming home soon so that your child may order a shirt to wear on the field trip. The second zoo payment is due on February 21st. If you have any questions about the trip, please feel free to contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

Please remember to notify your child’s teacher if you will be picking your child up early. It is difficult to get make-up work completed ahead of time if we do not know that a child is being picked up. Disruptions to your child’s schedule are predictable at this time of year due to inclement weather. Please keep your child on a regular sleep schedule as much as possible in order to minimize distractions.

Reading, studying science/social studies notes, studying spelling words or practicing math facts are all great snow day activities!



A.G. Richardson Elementary

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February Calendar of Events

Monday, February 3 - Preschool "Touch a Truck" on site field trip, 9:00-12:00

Tuesday, February 4 - American Heart Association assemblies on Healthy Hearts, 1:15PM (K-2) and 2:05 (3-5)

Wednesday, February 5 - Reading incentive celebration for January's top readers, 1:30PM, Cafeteria

Thursday, February 6 - Interim reports go home

*1st grade field trip to Riverside Theater, 9:00AM

Friday, February 7 - Kindergarten Senses Day

Thursday, February 13 - PTO meeting, 6:00PM

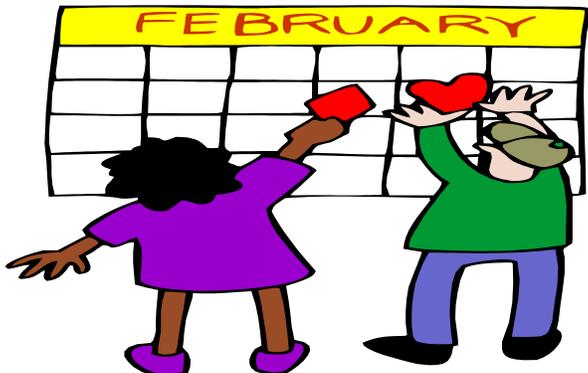
Friday, February 14 - Lunch with the Principals at Country Cookin, 11:00AM (Selected students in grades 3-5)

Friday, February 21 - PTO "Boots and Beauties" Dance (Daddy-Daughter dance), 6-8PM

Friday, February 28 - Spirit Day! Wear school colors or AGR Spirit wear

*K-2 Dental Health presentations, 1:30PM (2nd grade), 2:00PM (K/1)

*Adapted PE Family Fun Night, 6-8PM (Family fun for students with special needs)



Physical Education Fun

Since coming back from Christmas break our students have been enjoying gymnastics during the month of January. As we move into February, we will be kicking off our American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge fundraiser. It will begin on February 4th, when we kick it off with a special Pep Rally for our students. We will be promoting and working on a healthy heart by doing jump roping and basketball centers through out the month! Help your child take the Kids Heart Challenge!

Help your child(ren) go online at www.heart.org/kidsheartchallenge or download the Kids Heart Challenge App (App Store for iPhone or Google Play for Android)

Our goal is to have 100% of our students take the heart healthy challenge online.

The three challenges they can pick from are:

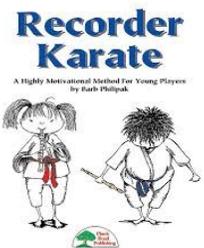
1. Choosing water over sugary beverages;
2. 60 minutes of physical activity a day; or
3. Doing a good deed!

When your child takes the challenge, they will become an official member of Heart Hero Team.

This year, the mobile app unlocks even more fun and the Heart Heroes and wristband come to life. As soon as your child raises \$10 online, they will also receive Echo and Finn, two of the Heart Hero characters, along with a clip to collect them all.

Greetings from the Music Department!

Third and Fourth graders will be working on Recorder Karate very soon. Ask your Third or Fourth Grader, what is Recorder Karate?



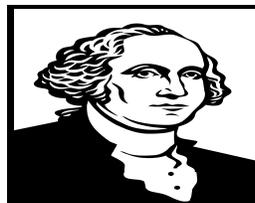
News from the Office

Please make sure you update phone numbers and address changes with the office. This is for the safety of your children.

Please make sure you call the office or send in a note when your child is absent from school.

Parent's remember automated calls are sent out by the school system. These are very important calls, so please listen to them. They can be school cancelations or messages from Mrs. Bridges with updates.

Parents keep in mind that during 2 hour delays for inclement weather, we do not serve breakfast, so please provide breakfast for your child before school.



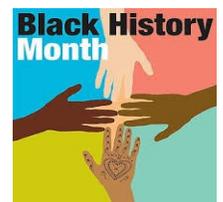
Fourth Grade News

Happy February fantastic fourth graders and families! We can't believe we are almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through school! Ask your student to turn that fraction into a decimal and ask what fractions would be equivalent - those are math skills your child has learned this year! In math, we will wrap up our fraction unit and will move to learn about graphs and probability. Students will be learning about the Civil War in Virginia Studies and moon phases in Science. Keep an eye out on our Fourth grade website when we have a snow day - we update our Snow Day Challenge each time! Thanks for partnering with us to make it the best year yet!



News from the Library

Students continue to enjoy the new books recently purchased for our Library. Classes have been learning about these new books and how and where to locate these in the collection. We are looking forward to more great books and exciting learning in our Library!



SCA Updates

The month of February is going to be a huge month for SCA, as we get ready to prepare for Pennies for Patience. Our goal is to raise more money than any of the other schools in the county! SCA has been working diligently and will continue to do so not only for Pennies for Patience, but also for the events we have in store in the coming months.

Candy Standley, Math Specialist

Here are some ideas for using math during cooking:

Read a recipe with your child and have them help purchase ingredients,

Work with telling time and calculating elapsed time as you are cooking,

Calculate the cost of making a recipe,

Estimate the number of servings you'll need based on the number of guests you'll have,

Ask questions about doubling or halving the recipe.



Counselor's Corner

We are preparing for our annual AGR Career Day on April 9th. We would love to learn about a wide variety of jobs this year. You can help us in different ways. One way is to be a presenter on Career Day for students in grades 3-5. I'm looking for at least 15 presenters. If you prefer you can do a 2 minute video interview about your job for us to air on WAGR TV. I'd love to show a few Career Interviews a week leading up to our Career Day. Please contact Mrs. Morrison, School Counselor, for more information on the different ways you can help us explore the world of work!

We are beginning the process of Middle School transition for our Fifth grade students. School Counselors from both middle schools will be visiting AGR in February to talk with our students about what to expect at middle school. We will take tours to each middle school later in the spring. Please be sure your address is up to date in our system so there isn't any confusion as to which middle school your child will be attending.