

RIDGEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RIDING HIGH TO EXCELLENCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ridgeway family encourages community involvement, values learning, and promotes character.

VISION STATEMENT VALUES

Every student at Ridgeway will be productive members of our world by displaying:

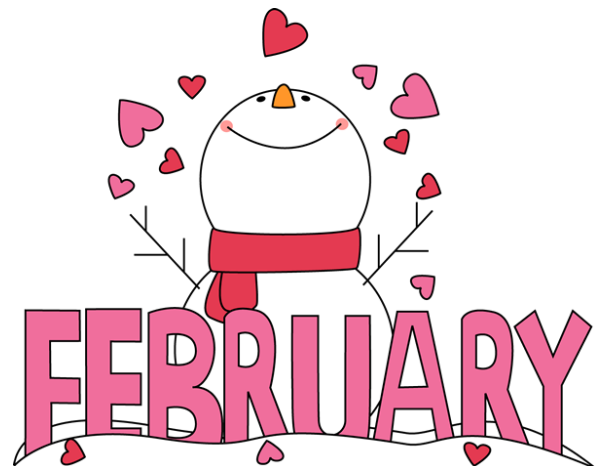
- ❖ **Competence** toward rigorous standards assessed through ongoing state and school-based assessments.
- ❖ **Compassion** as students develop values and demonstrate a caring affect.
- ❖ **Confidence** as they develop and demonstrate the ability to persevere through complex tasks and to accept challenges.

Principal's Message

Happy February! We think January went by way too fast, so we are not sure how the short month of February will feel in the end. We have really had great weather so far and hopefully the longer hours of daylight in February will help us to feel like spring is around the corner. It looks to be a short but busy month. The PTA will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 3rd. The Chessie Mid-Year Carnival is scheduled for Friday, February 7th at 2:15 pm. Second marking period report cards go home on Monday, February 10th. There will be a two-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, February 12th for staff to participate in a district wide professional development on Equity. Staff will be encouraged to wear orange that day and students may certainly participate in wearing orange that day as well. Schools and county offices will be closed on Monday, February 17th in recognition of Presidents' Day. The PTA will have a restaurant event at Chipotle on Wednesday, February 19th from 5 until 9 pm.

We want to thank everyone for making the effort to be aware of and following the directions of staff on arrival and dismissal duty. It really goes a long way in helping us keep the students safe. For the car loop- if you really need some extra time to help your student with something- please continue to pull up away from the line (a staff member can help direct you) or park in a parking space. This will go a long way in the safety needs, as well as helping parents in the line behind you to drop off in a safe and timely manner. Again, thanks for all that you do to help us each and every day!

Dr. Prater, Principal
Mrs. Elliott, Assistant Principal



STUDENT DROP OFF

Just a reminder that school begins daily at 8:55 AM. Our doors open for students at 8:35 AM. We would like to ask that you please be mindful of the time that you drop your students off at school; particularly during the cold winter months. Thank You!



Background Checks

Before you volunteer, **you must** watch the *Anne Arundel County Sexual Harassment and Child Abuse PowerPoint* and complete the form for us to keep on file (not required if we have your form on file).

Background checks can now be done online and are required for all school field trips but are not required to volunteer at the school.

To begin the background check process, please go to the following link:

<http://www.aacps.org/chaperone/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, January 31-	Beginning of Third Marking period
Monday, February 3-	Newsletter available online PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Friday, February 7-	Chessie Mid-Year Carnival 2:15pm
Monday, February 10-	Report Card Distribution
Wed, February 12-	Two-Hour Early Dismissal 1:20 pm Professional Development
Monday, February 17-	President's Day- All Schools/Central Offices Closed
Wednesday, Feb 19	Chipotle Night 5-9pm (Waugh Chapel)
Monday, March 2	Newsletter is available online
Tuesday, March 10	Parent Teacher Conferences Schools closed for Students
Monday, March 9	Interims to be sent home
Tuesday, March 24	Two-Hour Early Dismissal 1:20 pm Professional Development
Wednesday, April 1	Kindergarten Registration Begins



Event Parking at Ridgeway

We would like to remind all parents and visitors to Ridgeway Elementary to please respect the property of our neighbors and do not park in any driveway, in front of any driveway or mailbox. Our neighbors have been instructed by the Anne Arundel County Policy Department to contact them and they will ticket and/or tow vehicles who are in violation.

**ALL VEHICLES THAT PARK IN THE BUS LANE
MUST MOVE THEIR VEHICLE BEFORE 2:30 PM**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT RIDGEWAY?

ACC I AND II- Our theme this month revolves around learning the different regions of the U.S. We will explore where we get natural and man-made resources throughout the country. Our core content stories are: *Travel Buddy*, *Find it on the Map*, *Regions of the U.S. Part 1*, and *Regions of the U.S. Part 2*. For written expression, we will be working on using high frequency words and our themed vocabulary. Students will learn how to form/build/read sentences addressing who, what, and where while retaining comprehension of these new vocabulary words.

(Dolch/Fry Words- has, are, this, land, is, many, made, in, of, find, she, come, state, map, ground, city, use, oil

Vocabulary- map, mountain, man-made, natural resources, lake, forest, metal, region, state, ocean, landform, desert, city

In math, we will be exploring fractions by matching visual representations and building/writing them respectively. Students will also continue to work on individualized skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, measuring, rounding, telling time, counting coins, and solving word problems related to our geographical theme.

During our Science and S.S block students will be using task analysis to write their own petitions and measurement/ sequencing skills to create delicious apple recipes. We will also cover unit 6 literature based social skills lessons revolving around Self-Control by learning rules, routines, and how to treat ourselves/others.

(Literature Based Stories Include: *What was I Thinking?*, *My Mouth is a Volcano*, *I just don't like the sound of NO*, and *I Just Want to do It My Way!*

Supplemental Social Stories Include: *Blurting out social story*, *being yourself instead of someone else*, and *coping skills*

KINDERGARTEN – There are several exciting events coming up this month. We will be celebrating Groundhog's Day, the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day. We can't wait to see all the creative ways the students displayed 100 objects on their shirts. In reading, we will continue to work with sight words, blending letter sounds to make words and word families. In science and social studies, we will be learning about living in our world and the weather. In math, we will be working on counting sets and determining whether the set is equal or not equal and begin practice with addition and subtraction within 5 and 10. **Please be sure that your child has a weather appropriate change of clothes.** They should also be coming to school in warm winter accessories on cold days.

FIRST- We will be celebrating the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day this month! Please look for a flyer asking for donations for these special days.

We will be exploring ideas in our third theme, "I Am Curious about How to Share Ideas." In Language Arts, we will be practicing multiple spellings for long vowel sounds, writing opinion pieces, and responding to reading by asking questions, visualizing, making predictions, and retelling the main idea and details. In Math, we will be comparing, ordering, adding, and subtracting numbers to 120. We will also be exploring shapes in a special math project called M^2 . In Science and Social Studies, we will be learning about communication, light, and sound. Please continue to encourage your child to make good choices, do their very best, and to read every night. Thank you for your continued support!

SECOND -Happy February! This may be a short month, but it will be keeping us very busy here in second grade. In math this month, we will begin learning all about shapes and polygons in our geometry unit. We will also begin to develop our understanding of fractions. Students will continue to work hard in Language Arts, especially focusing on using the skills taught during the literacy block to build strong reading skills. In Science, students will learn how to become a steward of the environment and in Social Studies the students will learn about communities. The second grade also looks forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and at the end of the month, your child will be receiving a permission slip for our March field trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Thank you for your continued support!

THIRD - This month in Language Arts, students will work on identifying theme, comparing two texts and sequencing. Students will be working with poetry. In Math, students will continue to explore multiplication and division. Patterns will also be introduced as well as a review of fractions. Equivalent fractions will be our main focus. In Science, students will be learning about simple machines and the design process, specifically, developing designs and analyzing products for efficiency, safety, ease of use, and cost. In Social Studies, students will study Economics.

FOURTH= It is hard to believe that we are already in the third marking period! In Language Arts, our focus will be fictional text. We will be working on such skills as identifying theme, making inferences, and describing characters, setting, and events using text details. In Math, we will be studying geometry, including identifying types of angles and measuring them. Our next unit in Science centers around energy, including sound and electrical energy. In Social Studies, students will be studying 19th century Maryland, including their involvement in the War of 1812. Keep your eye out for information regarding Valentine's Day celebrations. Happy February!

FIFTH – In Language Arts, we will continue to explore poetry and nonfiction. In Math, we will continue to work on dividing fractions. We will then begin working on decimal operations. We are studying states of matter in Science. We will continue our study of the Revolutionary War in Social Studies. We also have our drownproofing field trip coming up on February 18th-21st. Please make sure you have submitted the emergency card and permission slip for the trip.

ART – Fifth grade artist will learn about value and use chalk pastel to draw seashells.

Fourth grade artists will watercolor paint and Egyptian inspired blue hippo.

Third grade will create a seahorse in a coral reef composition. They will use a variety of materials.

2nd grade will create an aboriginal inspired fish drawing using chalk pastels.

1st grade will draw and watercolor paint a 2D djembe drum.

Kindergarten will paint a seascape one using watercolor and then one using tempera paint.

MEDIA – In February, our fifth, fourth, and third grades will continue to work on different research skills and incorporating technology into their products. Our second graders are busy with a STEM project that focuses on developing growth mindset abilities and creative thinking needed for so many of our 21st century jobs. Our K and 1 students will be continuing their instruction on coding skills using our Code.org curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Students have been working on our Bowling Unit. 4th and 5th grade have been focusing on keeping score and the younger grades have been working on our form and accuracy. Later in the month we will be working on our Jump Rope Skills.

MUSIC- General Music students are continuing their work with the steady beat, rhythm, notation, tone color, and form among many other things.

Band, Chorus, and Strings students are continuing preparations for their Spring Concerts. Concert dates are as follows. Please, mark your calendars. Plan on coming and hearing these students!

- Chorus Spring Concert - 5/8/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Strings Spring Concert - 5/12/20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Band Spring Concert - 5/14/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note students must dress in concert dress. This includes and is the same for all three groups:

- white shirt or blouse
- black pants, slacks, or skirt
- black dress shoes

- Girls may also choose to wear a solid black dress.

SPEECH- Speech pathologists in the school setting work on language and articulation weaknesses that impact academics. This includes articulation, listening skills, vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, problem solving and social skills. Contact your child's teachers if you have a concern about these areas.

TIPS and TARGETS! This month in Speech....

Valentine's Day Vocabulary: Valentine, Sweet, Cupid, Crush, Heartthrob, Lovebirds, Admirer

Word Practice: This month we celebrate Valentine's Day! Make your practice sweeter by writing these words on hearts! Then draw a picture or write your own definition on the back of each heart. Practice with these each day

Strategy of the Month: Making Predictions with the Groundhog making his prediction this month about the weather, we're talking about what it means to make a prediction. When we make a prediction, we think about what could or might happen. It's important to take make predictions! It allows you to think about the information you already know and then make an educated "guess" about what will happen. Try this at home! A game like "Guess Who?" or "I Spy" is a great way to make predictions. Use the clues your given to make your educated guess!

Idioms of the Month: *Remember to talk about the literal (actual) and figurative (symbolic) meaning of the idioms! "Love at first sight" "From the bottom of my heart"

SWEET CRAFT: Now is a great time to use your idioms and vocabulary for your Valentines! Use the words in context by creating a valentine. Maybe the person you're making it for is your "crush" or you think they are "sweet", and you mean it "from the bottom of your heart!"



Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

I have noticed a growing number of anxious students. I wanted to provide you with some strategies this month to assist in calming and coping tools for when we worry. Students can learn self- control techniques such as calming and problem solving to manage their strong feelings. Self- calming and relaxation techniques help students reduce impulsive reactions and thus control their anger. There are several ways that students can learn how to calm their emotions by providing a different activity on which to focus rather than responding immediately to their strong emotion.

1. **Counting:** When students concentrate on counting, they don't react immediately to the anger or anxiety. Students can slowly count to ten on their fingers, from one to 19 forward, from ten to 1 backwards, or backwards by fives starting at 100 as is age appropriate.
2. **Deep Breathing:** Students are taught to take deep breaths for three minutes. They may combine either counting to five while inhaling and again while exhaling, or silently say such calming words as "chill-out" "re-lax", or "be cool" with the rhythm of their breath. Other technique could be "Smell the flower, blow out the candle," which encourages kids to take long breaths.
3. **Hand "C" circle:** Students can do this by themselves very quickly to calm themselves. The child forms his or her left hand into a "C" shape (index and thumb facing child). The child uses his or her right index finger and traces the "C" repeating the two phrases: "Calm down. Control yourself." The motion and repetition helps to calm and relax the child.

4. **B.A.T.S.:** This acronym stands for “: Breath, ask yourself to count to ten, think of you favorite place, and Say, “I’m okay, I can handle it!”
5. **Self-Talk:** Encourage the student to encourage themselves, this can be in a low whisper or in their minds. “stay in control” “I can handle this”
6. **1+3+10:** 1: Say “Be Calm”, 3: Take 3 deep breaths, 10 count to 10
7. **Imagine a calm place:** Have your child imagine a place where they feel the calmest, this could be their bedroom, the beach, grandma’s house wherever. Have them close their eyes and picture this place.
8. **Draw it:** Draw out your anger or anxiety. When you are done crumple it up, or rip it up, and throw it away.
9. **Write it:** Journal your thoughts and feelings.
10. **Fidgets:** These can *sometimes* be useful. A fidget should be small enough to fit in a child’s pocket and hand, not make any noise, and must not require 2 hands to use. Good examples of fidgets are, stress balls, therapy putty (play dough), Velcro. Unfortunately, fidget spinners are more along the lines of a toy than an actual device used in therapy.

Congratulations to the following students for earning Student of the Month by demonstrating **Problem Solving Skills** throughout the school.

Kindergarten

Ms. Corso –Khloe Y.
 Mrs. Pinckney-Emilee A.
 Ms. Schiller – Teresa O.
 Mrs. Sweitzer –Genevieve J.
 Ms. Webb – Dominic R.
 Ms. Canelli-Samantha F.

First Grade

Ms. Choo-Rhyleigh F.
 Mrs. Clark –Ellisyn R.
 Ms. Ryan- Mia D.M.
 Ms. Tran-Amelia B.
 Ms. Shiffrin-Lillian J.

Second Grade

Ms. D’Angelo-Kennedy B.
 Ms. Gaunt- Olivia A.
 Ms. Johnston- Cienna C.
 Mrs. Sym- Roman L.
 Mrs. Ward- Ryan S.

Third Grade

Mrs. Brown-Nathanel R.
 Ms. Downie- Dominion A.
 Ms. Potts- Cyrus C.
 Mrs. Zak-Joseph D.

Fourth Grade

Mr. Birus-Kisa F.
 Mrs. Carrigan-Aaron Y.
 Ms. Heisman-Isiah S.
 Ms. Stepien-Tomario J.
 Mrs. Quarantillo- Joseph R.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Fox- Brady M.
 Mrs. Harper-Lippert- Emma P.
 Mrs. Kruszynski- Olamide O.
 Ms. Stanton-Ashton J.S.
 Ms. Toth-Goodnews A.

As the second semester starts, we continue to work on the social and emotional development of our students. Teachers are committed to embedding social skills throughout the curriculum. Planning once a month helps us brainstorm ideas and share activities that will allow us to focus on teaching the whole child. School wide we are dedicated to promoting **kindness** through our character trait lessons and classroom buddy activities.

This month's counseling lessons will be focused on the following areas:

Kindergarten – Treating others kindly

[Have you filled a Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud](#)

1st Grade – Cooperation and “I Messages”

<https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/psychpedia/i-message>

2nd Grade – Defining and stopping bullying

<https://pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/>

3rd Grade – Communication skills, stress management (defining stress and coping skills)

<https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/common-challenges/communication-issues/10-ways-to-improve-your-grade-schoolers-communication-skills#slide-1>

4th Grade – Internet Safety, Stress management (listening to our body and coping skills)

<https://www.common sense.org/>

5th Grade – Cyberbullying, Stress management (identifying stress and coping skills)

<https://www.common sense.org>



