

THE RAM REPORT

DECEMBER 2018

In the Know With PTO:

Nov. 29th: We will prepare for our annual Holiday Shack. Come join us for a morning of fun as we chat while we bag and wrap.

Dec. 4th: PTO Meeting 7:00pm See you there!

Dec. 5th: Pre K open house 6:00pm

Dec.10th: Winter Concert! 2-3:30pm Parents of grades 3-4.

Dec. 11th: Winter Concert! 9:30-11am Parents of 5th grade students

Dec. 11th: Barnes and Noble night! 5-8pm Games, books, and the band!

Dec. 15th: Breakfast with Santa! 8:00am HoHoHo!!!

Dec. 19th: Mini Mini Thon!

Dec. 20th: Winter Parties. Jingle Bells Jingle Bells rock! Be on the lookout for donation opportunities from your classroom parent volunteers.

Dec. 21st: Pajama Day!!!

Dec. 24th-Jan 2nd Closed for Winter Break!!

Thank you for another amazing Book Fair, successful author visit, and a delicious breakfast with Dad.

News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten - We would like to begin by thanking all of the parents who came for a Kindergarten conference prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We really appreciate all of your support and hard work that you do each day. We are so proud to say that your children continue to show progress in all academic and social areas.

There was a lot to be thankful for during the month of November. We learned about a new author, Jerry Pallotta! Our Thanksgiving Feast with our buddies was a wonderful sharing experience, too. The children enjoyed making Pilgrim hats and Native American headbands, eating our friendship fruit salad, and most of all spending time together. We are looking forward to the Pajama and Polar Express Day this month. We will get to be with our buddies again and read *The Polar Express*, all while spending the day in our pajamas.

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday with family and friends!

Grade 1 - Our first-grade children are excited about the upcoming Winter Holidays. We are reading and writing

about this beautiful time of the year and utilizing seasonal images to practice our math skills. We continue to look forward to learning new skills and concepts in grade one.

We are working diligently to grow academically and socially. Please continue to support your child's academic growth by sharing books on a daily basis, reviewing heart words, and practicing addition facts. We are working hard to develop our leadership skills and appreciate all of your positive support in fostering respect and cooperation in each child.

As colder weather arrives, it is important to dress your child in layers in order to maintain comfort in our classrooms and out of doors. Please note that we will go outside for recess as long as there is no rain and the temperatures exceed the freezing point. First graders will continue to have a daily snack break. Please remember to send a small, healthy snack for your child each day.

If Santa needs a few stocking stuffer ideas, we would like to suggest new boxes of crayons, pencils, erasers, glue

sticks and other requisite school supplies. Following an early start to the cold season, classroom teachers are also in need of tissues and antibacterial cleaning wipes.

We wish you and your families a very Happy, Healthy Holiday Season.

Grade 2 - Welcome to the holiday season! Second grade is excited to explore the different holidays and cultures that celebrate this time of year, around the world! Children are encouraged to read nightly, independently, or with a grown-up. In our WONDERS reading series, students will be finishing up animal discoveries while studying animal poems. We begin a new unit mid-December, studying the Earth's forces! In math this month, second graders will be wrapping up geometry with a study on symmetry. Then, we will be exploring the world of number strings and story problems. Keep practicing math facts at home, as this is an important skill we build on all year long. In science, we are continuing to experiment and learn about balance and motion and air and weather. How fascinating! Second grade loves the inquiry-based approach and really thinks like scientists! We are looking forward to the holiday parties and a break before the New Year! Warmest wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season, from 2nd grade!

Grade 3 - Third grade has been working hard and is looking forward to a fun-filled December. Some upcoming events for us include the holiday concert, the holiday party, and Pajama Day. In the holiday concert, the kids will show off their flutophone talent. They have been practicing and are excited to play some tunes for the parents.

This month we have been continuing in Unit 2 of Wonders, where students are busy learning about author's point of view, making predictions and rereading to understand. In math, we continue to work on multiplication/division concepts. Students are also learning how to fill out a multiplication table and write their own division and multiplication stories. Please continue to practice your multiplication and division facts at home. We are so proud of how hard our third graders have been working on the First in Math VIFs at school. Many students have already passed their addition and subtraction and some have even passed multiplication and division. Way to go third grade!

Students should be reading every night at home. Parents can help by asking their child to summarize what they read and to define a few vocabulary words from the

night's reading. We appreciate all of your support at home. Happy Holidays!

Grade 4 - December brings many joyful moments and gifts; and above all the gift of learning. Please enjoy reading with your child their favorite novel as well as working alongside them in First In Math. We continue to celebrate 4th Graders' individual FIM achievements every Friday. Your continued support in First In Math is evident as our Spring Garden 4th Grade has attained high rankings and recognition both state and national. Be sure to have your child show our standings!

4th grade enjoyed attending a concert by the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra at Northeast Middle School. Be sure to ask your child a few of their favorite tunes.

4th Grade will participate in the Winter Holiday Vocal and Instrumental Concert on December 10, and 11. Please be sure to dress your child in their concert attire. Also for child safety it's suggested shoes with low heels. 4th Grade is looking forward to presenting a delightful concert filled with the holiday spirit!

Grade 5 - Another month has passed, Thanksgiving is over, and the most hectic time of the year is upon us. Here are a few things that have happened in November or will happen in December.

Before Thanksgiving we met with our kindergarten buddies for our annual Friendship Feast. It was a nice time of sharing snacks and smiles. Thank you to all the parents that donated items. Your support of events like this is what helps create lasting memories. We will be having another special event with our buddies before the winter break too.

In mid-December we will be attending the Nutcracker Ballet. This is a BASD sponsored event, one that offers the children a very unique experience. The show will be at Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center. We look forward to the dancers telling this traditional holiday story. We also hope for live music from the symphony. This is a special treat we get some years. Let's hope we get lucky again this year!

Another annual event that we look forward to is ice skating. This event is sponsored by our PTO. It is considered part of the children's physical education, so ALL children will get on the ice no matter if they have skating experience or not. Each year there are many children that are reluctant, but everyone comes back to school with smiles on their faces. This is an event that

parental help is needed. If interested, please read the paperwork sent to you by Ms. Deibler.

At this busy time of year, we look forward to the many special activities that get added into our regular schedules. Happy holidays to all!

Art - Greetings from the Art Room!

November has been filled with students investigating who they are and learning more techniques to assist them in their individual artworks.

Kindergarten has been learning about symmetry and color mixing through the creation of nature inspired artworks.

First grade has finished their large emotional color silhouette paintings and has begun a winter hill collage where students are learning how size, balance, and color is affected by space.

Second grade has finished their bubble letter name artworks where they learned what primary, secondary, complementary, warm, and cool colors are as well as what tints and shades are through experimentation with different mediums. Students are about to begin to create dioramas for an upcoming Peeps Contest. We will focus on working in the third dimension to recreate a place in Bethlehem accurately using candy! They will use problem solving and creative thinking skills as well as learn how to collaborate with their classmates while working as a team.

Third grade has been investigating their emotional selves through the usage of color. We are creating hot air balloons in which students have been using the colors that describe them within their basket paper weaving and balloon painting. Students have begun to paper mache their balloons and will create large backgrounds that symbolize a place that they wish to fly to that makes them happy.

Fourth grade has finished their perspective letter artworks and we are finishing a project that deals with reflections of a place that is significant to them. Students are learning how to use space and paint to create a water reflection and beginning to write about their art in explaining the significance of this place to them as a beginning artist statement.

Fifth grade is working on portrait techniques to learn how to draw the face proportionally. We are investigating how to draw the various facial features, how to layout the entire face and how to accurately use shading and painting techniques for details. Students

will begin drawing self-portraits and their alter egos once these techniques are understood.

Keep your eyes open for the next Family Art Evening which will be held in January and focused on the Asian culture! Forms will be sent home soon!

Digital Literacy - Spring Garden night at Barnes and Noble Bookstore is rapidly approaching! KIDS - come out and listen to your favorite teachers read tales of the season, clap wildly for your schoolmates as they perform musical tributes to the holidays, and share stories with your friends. Don't miss the LEGO Challenge and the Scavenger Hunt as well!!

Tuesday December 11th - beginning at 5:00pm. See you there.....for.....**BARNES AND NOBLE NIGHT**

Spring Garden Elementary School night at Barnes and Noble is scheduled for December 11th.

Readings of Holiday titles by your favorite teachers, special deals on books by many of your favorite authors and a chance to raise money for Spring Garden, are all part of a fun night out at Barnes and Noble's Southmont Center store.

Come out and join all of your friends, old and new, for a night of entertainment on December 11, 2018.

Instrumental Music - The Winter concert is scheduled for Monday/Tuesday December 10th/11th. Returning 5th grade band and string students who have been coming to morning rehearsals will participate in the winter concert for band and orchestra! They have been working hard to learn their music and we are excited to perform for you.

Barnes & Noble Night is also Tuesday December 11th. Returning 5th grade students who are participating in the Winter concert can sign up to play music that evening. See Mrs. Walmer for permission slips!

Beginning instrumental students are off to a good start. Every student should have their own lesson book. We are learning to read note names, rhythms and trying to keep a steady beat while playing. Please encourage your child to practice as much as possible!

Spanish - Students have covered the following topics in Spanish: Greetings and Farewells, Classroom Objects, Colors, Numbers and Days of the Week. We have discussed many cultural topics dealing with numerous Spanish-speaking countries. Throughout the month of December, students will explore the holiday season's traditions and customs of people living in Spanish-

speaking countries. If you are interested in viewing and/or reviewing all of the vocabulary we have discussed this year, please go to the following link <https://quizlet.com/jcierech/folders/elementary>. As always, if you are interested in seeing occasional posts about the program, including some cute pictures, please follow me on twitter at @CierechJen. I look forward to all that 2019 has to offer! Espero que disfrute las vacaciones de navidad con su familia.

Vocal Music - Just a friendly reminder that this year's Winter Holiday Vocal and Instrumental Concerts will be held on **Monday, December 10th, 2018 at 2:00 PM and Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 at 9:30 AM**. Both concerts will be identical and will feature students in Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade. The 4th and 5th Grade RAM Ringers Hand Chime Choir will also perform. The theme for the Vocal portion of the Winter Holiday Concert is "**Celebrate.**" The 5th Grade Spring Garden Strings and the 5th Grade Spring Garden Band will also perform in the Winter Holiday Concert. Please make sure that your child has his/her instrument, music, and accessories in school on concert days so that they will be able to perform.

We welcome all parents/guardians, relatives, and guests of those students performing to attend the Winter Holiday Concert. We are thrilled that our Spring Garden Concerts are so well attended and that you come to

support your child's musical education!! In order to accommodate all audience members with seating, we are suggesting that you come during the following times....

***Monday, December 10th, 2018 at 2:00 PM -**

for all parents of all

3rd & 4th Grade students

***Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 at 9:30 AM**

for all parents of all

5th Grade students

Thank you!

Physical Education - The Annual Fifth Grade Ice Skating Trip will take place on Tuesday, December 18th from 9:15 - 11:00. This is a great chance for our students to learn a life-time sport. I will teach a beginner skate lesson to all **new** skaters. Later, the children will have a chance to earn a certificate if they are able to perform a "U" - turn, zig-zag through cones and skate backward. Students who have mastered basic skate skills may even take part in a modified Ice Hockey Game!

Parents who are available from 9:15 to 9:45 to tie skates, please get in touch with me at jdeibler@basdschools.org or send a note in with your child. I'm also looking for parents who can come out on the ice with us.

Let's Keep Kids Moving!

Habit 3 – Put First Things First

Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important.

This means I say no to things I know I should not do.

I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.

I am disciplined and organized.

