

# THE RAM REPORT

## APRIL 2019

### ***In the Know with the PTO!***

*Spring Garden T-Shirts are on sale for \$5 in the Ram Shack*

*April 2nd: PTO Meeting 7pm See you there!*

*April 8th: Kindergarten Open House 6-7:30pm*

*April 10th: Skateaway Family Fun Night 5-8pm Rolling out the fun!*

*April 13th: Spring Gardeners Spring Clean Up 10am - 12pm*

*April 18th: Breakfast with Mom 8am Bagels, muffins, coffee and community!*

***Early Dismissal 12:05pm***

*April 19th: No School Spring Break*

*April 15-17: PSSA - English Language Arts*

*April 29-30th: PSSA - Mathematics*

*May 1-2nd: PSSA - Science Grade 4*

***Carnival - May 10th 5-8pm***

*We're still looking for sponsors and raffle basket donations. Contact Brie Chambers for more information [briechambers@gmail.com](mailto:briechambers@gmail.com)*

*Volunteer information and opportunities coming soon.*

***Thank you to everyone that came out for Family Fun Night at Panera.***

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### News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

**Kindergarten** - Happy Spring! March was a fun-filled month. We had a blast dressing up to celebrate Dr. Seuss and all of his books. Students from Freedom High School even came to our school to share their love of reading! Our Leadership Day was quite a hit, too! We enjoyed showing our community what great leaders we have at Spring Garden.

Kindergarten will be learning about our country along with the sky and space in literacy. We will then move on to learning about helping out at home and how we can be good citizens! The students are working hard on their letters and sounds to help our goal of decoding tricky

words. Keep reading and practicing your high frequency words at home! In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction. We can't believe how fast this year is going! We are looking forward to the many end-of-year activities we have planned and some sunny weather, too!

**Grade 1** - Spring is beginning to show itself all around with new growth! Our first-grade boys and girls have grown in so many ways, too. We enjoyed the Freedom football players for Read Across America Day along with the fifth grade's book drive. The Irish Step Dancing performance by the O'Grady-Quinlan dancers near St. Patrick's Day got our feet tapping for many recesses.

Once again, the first-grade classes will be participating in an embryology program and hatching chicken eggs. The eggs will arrive on April 8 and are expected to hatch on the 13th of the month. We will be doing many fun educational projects spanning all aspects of the curriculum. We're hoping to have a webcam so you and your child can watch at home as well!

Thank you for continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts. Please practice telling time by the hour and half-hour and identifying and counting pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. We will begin our money unit very soon.

We know that your children are enjoying the warmer weather and extended daylight. We are encouraging them to play out of doors and to participate in organized sports, but we also wish to remind them to continue with their reading activities and to complete their homework on a timely basis.

We sincerely appreciate your support and encouragement. We thank you for all that you have done to make your child's year in first grade a memorable one!

**Grade 2** - Happy April! 2nd Grade is looking forward to a great month of warmer weather and our mini Spring Break! We can't wait for our field trip to the DaVinci Science Center on Friday, April 5th. In literacy this month, students will be learning about making a difference. We will study how to be a good citizen, cooperation, heroes, preserving Earth, and rights and rules. We will continue reading different genres about these topics, as well as writing about them! In math this month, we will be exploring number sense and patterns. Please continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts daily, as we build on this skill all year and into 3rd grade! Remember: First in Math is a fun, yet educational tool to utilize! In social studies, 2nd graders are still on the look-out for returning Flat Stanley projects! In science, we continue to think like scientists as we study air and weather, and balance and motion.

**Grade 3** - Happy Spring! Third grade teachers are so proud of all the hard work the students have put into third grade so far this year. We are busy planning several end-of-the-year events! We are looking forward to our Burnside Plantation field trip on May 13th (Mrs. Huertas and Mrs. Wilke) and 20th (Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Samuelson). Students will have many opportunities throughout the day to participate in seeing what life was like in the 18th century.

Third graders will soon practice their math skills by being part of the annual Math Fun Day. Bowling, shopping, dining out, and playing a variety of math games will make the day unforgettable! We need many volunteers for Math Fun Day on Friday, May 31st. If you plan on volunteering for Math Fun Day, please make sure you have your clearances. Information about this day will be coming home soon. We are looking forward to end of year activities!

Thanks again for your continued support!

**Grade 4** - Leadership Day was a Win-Win for 4<sup>th</sup> grade! Students created trifold showcasing their future careers using the 7 Habits. As parents and community neighbors visited our classrooms; students explained their trifolds and how the 7 Habits would impact achieving their career goals. Thanks to those parents who also presented their interesting careers with our 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It was the highlight of their day!

In math, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is studying measurement; weight, length, capacity, and implementing conversion methods. Following this, will be Geometry concepts such as measuring angles, finding perimeter and area. Be sure to review multiplication and division facts to prepare for the upcoming PSSA's.

As a reminder, students will take the PSSA on the following dates:

English Language Arts	April 15-17
Math	April 29-30
Science	May 1-2

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field trip to The Philadelphia Zoo will take place on May 23. Students are earning this trip every day by showing kindness and respect to their classmates. A student who receives 5 or more checks (by not being kind or bullying others) on their Kindness Contract will not be permitted on the trip. Be sure to discuss this with your child. Our goal is to have all of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade attend this trip and enjoy the great day at the Zoo!

**Grade 5** - The last marking period of the year is underway. There are many activities and events to keep track of in 5th grade. Please make note of these dates as you plan for the school year. Here are some of our scheduled dates during the school day:

PSSA 4/15-4/17
PSSA 4/29-4/30
Iron Pigs 5/2
VoTech visit 5/3
All City 5/7-5/9

Steel Stacks 5/13

Middle school visits 5/14

Instrumental concert 5/15

Track Meet 5/17 (rain date 5/24)

Vocal Concert 5/28

Township park/pool picnic 6/4

We have a lot of curriculum to still cover before the end of the year. In math, we are working on order of operations, coordinate grids, algebra, geometry and preparing for PSSA. In literacy, we will wrap up unit 4 with poetry and the unit assessment, then begin unit 5. In science we are working on FOSS kits in variables. In social studies, we are getting into the American Revolution and preparing for the Steel Stacks trip.

As we split between two middle schools, please discuss your family plan to help your child stay in touch with friends not attending the same middle school next year. They need to know you will help them keep up these friendships. The students experience stress at this time of the year when they realize they may not see their good friends on a daily basis. Thanks in advance for your support.

**Digital Literacy** – It's time to start organizing our book collection for the 2019-20 school year. A suggestion box for our students' favorite reading material will magically appear in the Spring Garden Library next week. Talk to your children about their most inspiring and coveted books. They'll be able to submit their suggestions and help us develop a collection which is responsive to their ever-changing interests. Thank you for your participation!

**Art** - Greetings from the Art Room!

The last two months has been filled with students investigating how to connect their artwork to ideas that are bigger than themselves. My goal is to help students learn how to use art to truly express who they are, what they feel/think and what they hope for in a safe space. As part of this concentration, all classes discussed what they hope for when they grow up in our world. The ideas and thoughts they came up with truly show their understanding of how to be empathetic and caring for our future world! All students created an artwork for the doodle for google contest whether they chose to enter it or not. The theme of the contest was "when I grow up, I hope..."

Kindergarten has also begun investigating Printmaking. We are starting to experiment with

different ways to make prints using our hands, blowing bubble prints and more!

First grade has been working on artworks inspired by the Arctic. We are creating artworks that directly are inspired by the Northern Lights and Inukshuks, which are navigational stones placed in the Arctic to help travelers find their way home. We are also working on finishing our clay snowmen!

Second grade has been working on an underwater series of pictures that started with a collage involving printmaking, stencils, watercolor, and paper collage. Students, after creating their artworks, had to write a creative story to go along with their pictures. Students then took their underwater creatures and created a 3-dimensional version of their creatures. We have now just begun to talk about the importance of recycling and repurposing materials that are normally thrown away. We watched a National Geographic video that shows what trash does to our sea animals and we are creating sea turtles using a water bottle, which is one of things that harm them most.

Third grade are still working on all the pieces of their hot air balloon artworks - they are painting their paper maché balloons, finishing their large backgrounds and piecing everything together. We took a break and studies geodes in class and created our own watercolor geode paintings!

Fourth grade is almost finished hand sewing their own pillows, purses or wall hangings that are inspired by the molas created by the Kunas Indians. We have begun talking about what we wish for in Bethlehem (our community specifically) to create a flag-like artwork that will be a part of an upcoming arts festival in Bethlehem called Festival Unbound!

Fifth grade has just finished their clay vessels about loss and will be glazing them soon! We are now working on a repurposed material project. Students have the choice to work alone or in a group and can create an artwork that functions as something specific or is wearable, or is simply an art sculpture. We have discussed how we can repurpose the things we throw away by using them to make an artwork. Their excitement and ideas are contagious!

I will be starting a few large projects soon where we will be needing donations of yarn and any plastic bottle caps in every color and size, so if you or someone you know has any extra yarn or if you would like to collect and send

in bottle caps - please think about donating them to our projects!

**Instrumental Music** - Rehearsals for the Spring concert are going well! Please remind your child to practice at home as well as during rehearsals and lessons at school. It is important that each student is confident in the notes they are supposed to play, because we don't always play the same thing at the same time.

Spring Band & Orchestra Concert

Wednesday May 15th, 6:30 p.m.

Spring Garden Stage/Cafeteria

\*Orchestra Rehearsal update: Since Monday April 22nd is now a regular school day we will have morning rehearsal at 8:20 a.m. If there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Walmer.

\*All-City band and orchestra permission slips will come home soon for some 5th grade students. Please check the dates before you sign the permission slip. Students must attend all three rehearsals during school on May 7, 8 and 9 and attend the concert on Thursday May 9th at 7:30 p.m.

**Physical Education** - Fifth Grade Students are currently trying out for the Spring Garden Track Team during Physical Education Class. Track and Field Events include: 50 and 100 Meter Dash, Baton Relay, Long and High Jump and the Softball Throw. Eighteen students will be selected to represent our school.

On Friday, May 17th, all fifth grade students in the district will travel to Liberty High School for the 56th Annual Frank Broad Track Meet. Fifth grade parents are invited to join us to help cheer on the team. In the event of inclement weather, the meet will take place on Friday, May 24th.

**Spanish** - Students are continuing to learn new vocabulary and culture in our Spanish classes. They

remember many concepts and vocabulary words from week to week. It is so rewarding to witness their enthusiasm and growth. I am so proud of them for speaking confidently in another language. Topics these past few months include months, seasons, weather expressions, clothing and body parts, and of course culture. On a daily basis, students ask inquisitive questions, wanting to know more about the Hispanic Culture! I encourage all students to go home and share what they are learning weekly in class. Remember, if you would like to see occasional posts about what we are learning and some supplemental resources to use at home, please follow me on Twitter @CierechJen.

Also, here is the link for all of the vocabulary for our classes:

<https://quizlet.com/jcierech/folders/elementary>

**Vocal Music** - Please take note and mark your calendars...

The Spring Garden Spring Vocal Concerts will be held over the course of two days: **Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. Both parent concerts will be **Identical Concerts**. In order to accommodate all audience members with seating, we are suggesting that you come during the following times....

**Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM** for all parents of Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 AM** for all parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and RAM RINGERS

Again, both parent concerts will be IDENTICAL, and students performing in both concerts include...

Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, and the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Garden RAM RINGERS.

You may, of course, go to either show if your schedule permits.

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