The Watershed Gazette

April 2021

Principal Update

As we roll into April, I am excited that students are returning to campus with the chance to explore our different areas. We have rehomed 6 chickens from the Baltimore Humane Society and we are preparing our campus for a spring celebration of learning. The rain garden is being planted, our garden is being weeded and seedlings are being started!
We are offering a chance for some students to participate in a small group re-engagement program. This program is targeted for students who would benefit from extra work completion support. If your child was selected, you will receive an email from Mr. Mendel, our lead teacher, with information about how to sign up for this afterschool program (3:00 pm - 4:45 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Your Principal, *Lori Widney*

Important Dates to Remember

4/5/21 - Schools & offices closed
4/6/21 - Schools Re-open Cohort A attends in person
4/7/21 - cohort A attends in person - MONDAY schedule is followed for virtual students (check MONDAY schedule for specials)
4/13/21 - First day of extended day program (ends at 4:45)
4/16/21 - Third Marking Period Ends
4/27/21 - Watershed Board Meeting 6pm
Link - PTW-JYCP-JMG
4/29/21 Report Cards Distributed

Breakfast and Lunch are free for every student this school year:
Menu 4/5 - 4/16
menu 4/19 - 4/30

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Health Suite News

Spring has Sprung ..and so Has Allergy Season. Here is a good read for those who have Seasonal allergies (kids and adults alike).
[4 "must dos" for kids with seasonal allergies - Harvard Health Blog - Harvard Health Publishing]
(Number 4 educates us about how to take the medication properly.)

How to tell the difference between Allergies and Colds
[Allergies or Cold? – Allergy Guide | ZYRTEC®]

Important notes regarding medications for students whether Regular (daily medications or as needed Medications) that will be given in the Health suite.
1.Our school Medication Consent Form should be filled out by the child's physician and signed by the parent. This form must be completed every year.
2.All medications must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian in the original container and clearly labeled by the Pharmacy. At the end of the year any leftover medications are to be returned to the parent/guardian.

Also, it's never too late to send in any School Health Forms .You can send it as an email attachment if you cannot drop it in personally.

Information about Covid-19 can be found at [Coronavirus - Maryland Department of Health]
KUDOS to all our amazing kids who are wearing their masks properly, doing an amazing job with handwashing and social distancing.

Nurse Flor
ftorres@bcps.org

Grade level updates

Kindergarten

In Phonics we are finishing up our last letter sounds and moving into long vowel sound patterns.

In Math we are exploring, composing and decomposing teen numbers.

In our Integrated ELA unit we will be studying the flora on campus.

We are especially excited to celebrate Earth Week as it sets our students up to plan and implement a solution to make the world a better and healthier place as we continue our Guardians of the Watershed unit.

First Grade

April is going to be an exciting Month for first grade! When we come back from spring break we will begin our unit in geometry. We will be learning to identify, draw and build geometric shapes using various materials like popsicle sticks and geoboards. We will also be working with fractions, we will review halves and introduce students to thirds and fourths. In phonics we will continue learning about r-controlled vowels and learning new diagraphs such as -ng and -nk. Students will practice reading and writing words with these sounds. During our Project time, students will be learning and using the engineering design process to help attract bees to our community.

Second Grade

April brings us towards the end of our 5th unit in math. Students will continue to work on solidifying their understanding of place value to 1,000. Our focus on money has provided opportunities for students to count by 5 and 10 and consider 25 cents or a quarter as a unit. Unit 6 is a fan favorite - geometry. Over the course of this unit, students investigate two-dimensional shapes, fractions (halves and fourths), congruence, symmetry, and transformations (slides, flips, and turns). There is a strong emphasis on identifying, describing, constructing, drawing, comparing, contrasting, and sorting various types of triangles and quadrilaterals, as well as other shapes, throughout the unit.

Forming a strong opinion and writing reasons why is our focus for the month of April. This will also be the focus of our final writing piece for our last unit project. As we practice writing opinion pieces throughout

the month, students will be building that strong foundation. We will also continue to strengthen our reading skills as we continue to focus on literature (fiction) standards.

Students will be working on their end of unit projects as we question what we should use to reduce erosion here on our school campus. We will be researching different mitigation strategies and experimenting which one works best. Students at home will have opportunities as well to see which strategy works best. We will also be researching how much each strategy cost - is it even worth it if the price is too high (goods and services - our social studies focus)

As the weather warms, we will be taking advantage of it at school. We hope that all students will have an opportunity to spend time outdoors. Continue to spend time in sit spots - maybe even finding a new one!

Third Grade

Third grade has begun its study of ecosystems through a study called “We Are All Connected,” The unit involves learning about the major ecosystems of our planet and how change, especially climate change, can affect balances. We began with the story of the wolves of Yellowstone National Park and explored the concept of food chains, predators and prey and human needs. We then moved into the desert ecosystem. Students are finding the exotic species and their adaptions fascinating! Next, we will uncover information about rainforests, grasslands, coral reefs and in the spring, bring the topic back home to deciduous forests and some of the challenges our ecosystem faces.

In math we are focused on telling and computing time, using digital and analog clocks. We are working with story problems about time measurement, as well as other metric units. Next up is fractions! We will begin working on fractions before spring break.

Students are busy doing independent reading, working with texts on our ecosystem topic as well as reading books of their own choosing. Students are responding to reading logs and moving up levels on RAZ-Kids. We are using various modes of reading such as guided reading, independent reading, close reading (reading together, analyzing texts) and read alouds. With all the extra time children have at home due to the pandemic, we are encouraging students to do extra reading, when curious about a subject or just for pleasure!

Fourth Grade

We are currently learning about how Maryland was colonized, settled and developed over time and are considering environmental mistakes that were made as humans developed society. We will begin to examine how man has used and affected natural processes to identify particular mistakes (such as excessive deforestation, excessive harvesting of fish/oysters, etc). While we read, we are pointing out word roots, prefixes and suffixes to see how words in our language are interconnected.

Special Areas

Physical Education

After Spring Break in Physical Education Watershed will be exploring the fast-paced activity, Cup stacking. You should have gotten 12 cups in your Physical Education pack. You will be using those cups to build your skills and speed at home. Cup stacking is an activity that requires a great deal of hand-eye coordination, concentration and most importantly practice. I can't wait to see how fast we get!

Art

Kindergarten will experiment with 3-dimensional forms and new materials by creating oviparous animals (animals that lay eggs) in clay.

First grade will investigate low tech forms of animation through flipbooks and clothespin automata.

Second grade will investigate 3-dimensional forms and the history of jewelry and adornment to create their own jewelry line from clay and found materials.

Third grade will explore anatomy, movement, and storytelling to create their own marionette puppets from clay and found materials.

Fourth grade will investigate 3-dimensional forms, scale, and proportion to create miniature models of their environment.

Counselor's Corner

The news has been draining for most adults to watch lately (except for the segment on our Watershed chickens!). With the good news few and far between I want to give you resources for supporting your family's mental health. Here is a compiled list shared with

me from the Office of School Counseling titled “Supporting Children & Families in the Wake of the Mass Violence.” The link is below!

https://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org/2021/03/19/supporting-children-families-in-the-wake-of-the-mass-violence/

Parent Committee Updates

Hello, Watershed families and caregivers. Now that schools have opened for Hybrid Learning, please complete this form if you are interested in Carpooling assistance with fellow Watershed families. This is 100% voluntary and submissions will be shared only with families who have completed it.

If you have ANY questions or need additional information for a family on the final list, please reach out to them directly. Likewise, by submitting, you are giving permission for families on this list to contact you directly. Carpools are not regulated by the Watershed Board, Admin, Staff, or its Parent-Led Committees. *Parent-Led Committees foster connection and communication for our Watershed families. Committees are NOT monitoring carpools or their implementation.

.https://forms.gle/uEd3TV5LFzWWABJx9

Watershed Board Updates

Chickens!

We were excited to receive 6 new chickens this week that were generously donated by Baltimore County Animal Services. It was also fun to meet Miss Kayla and learn more about her job helping animals and people! Our new chickens were excited to have such a nice new home and we are incredibly grateful to our amazing community for raising the funds for the fancy new chicken coop in record time!! Carrot and Pepper have retired to live at Ms. Chapman’s house and we anxiously await names for our new chickens from the Chicken Keepers on campus- the kindergarteners!

See us on the news:

WMAR
WJZ

We want to hear from you!

The board of Watershed Public Charter School values and encourages input and feedback from the public during board meetings. Near the beginning of each board meeting, there will be an established 30-minute time slot dedicated to stakeholder comment and feedback that will be listed as such on the meeting agenda. Prospective speakers are encouraged to sign in on the Stakeholder Comment and Feedback Sign Up sheet prior to the start of the meeting, which will be available near the entrance of the room. When meetings are held virtually, those who wish to speak should email the board prior to the day of the meeting at board@watershedpcs.org. A maximum of ten speakers will be drawn at random and will speak in the order they are selected; speaker time is limited to three (3) minutes each and will be monitored by the Board President. Board members will not respond to public comments within the same board meeting except to ask clarifying questions.

When speaking, speakers are asked to give their full name and be respectful of the board and members of the public when speaking. Speakers should address members of the board and be ready to respond to questions for clarification from the board if asked. The board does not discuss personnel matters in open board meetings. Inappropriate comments or behavior are discouraged. Inappropriate behavior is defined as insults, obscenities or profanity, attacks against any person in their personal capacity, and/or physical violence or threat thereof.