



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In spite of colder temperatures and fading daylight, December is a busy month. While children anticipate loads of presents, adults look forward to parties and other gatherings in celebration of the season. In between the holiday shopping, menu planning, and holiday preparations, Riverdale School has hosted or participated in several events this month. I want to thank all parents, teachers, and students who helped make these events successful. Mr. Charles Chadwell will coordinate our virtual Science Fair for fourth graders at Riverdale School on January 19, 2022. Our aspiring scientists are enthusiastic in presenting their projects to parents and community members, so log on and support their efforts. Also, big congratulations to all the students who will be participating. Particularly during this eventful time of year. I also want to thank each parent and family that are planning to attend the District 148 Winter Concert at The Early Childhood Center located at Harriet Tubman School December 16, 2021. After Winter Break, the school year quickly accelerates as teachers re-establish learning and discipline expectations and students become re-acquainted with schoolwork and studying. I urge parents to set aside some quiet time during Winter Break to read and review with your child lessons learned prior to the break. Getting back into the school habit will be much easier for both teachers and students if children maintain a regular reading and studying schedule during the break. Finally, the holidays remind us to slow down and enjoy time with our family and friends. Whether you celebrate the Yule season or simply use the time away to relax and rejuvenate, I wish you a wonderful, warm Winter Break surrounded by those special people in your life.

Striving for Academic Excellence for all Children,

Dr. Shinora Montgomery

### Calendar of Events

- **November 29 -December 17**  
i-Ready Math and STAR Reading Testing
- **December 2**  
Picture Retake 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- **December 3**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports sent home
- **December 10**  
Early Dismissal 12:00 p.m.
- **December 15**  
Family Math Night
- **December 16**  
Winter Concerts 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Location: ECC @ Harriet Tubman School
- **December 20-31**  
Winter Break
- **January 3**  
School Resumes

## ROCKETS NEWS



## Kindergarten

Ms. Kovalik and Ms. Williams

The kindergarten classes are learning how to be good readers and writers in class. We are discussing the role of the author and illustrator in the books that we are reading. We are also learning about fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. We are reading different versions of The Gingerbread Man and voting on our favorite retold version of the story. Our little learners will be creating their very own gingerbread house with the character from the story!

In math, we are learning how to solve problems using our vocabulary knowledge and the problem solving skills that we have learned over the quarter. We are learning so much in school and having a fun time in doing so. Please keep up the hard work everyone!

Ms. Kovalik and Ms. Williams

## First Grade

Mrs. Harris and Dr. Merriweather

First grade family, we have made it through the first twelve weeks of school. Time flies when you are learning and having fun. We have learned many addition strategies in math. Continue to check work and go over it with them as they bring graded assignments home. In reading, we are finishing *Stellauna*, and *Dragons and Giants*. Students at this point should be able to identify characters, settings and retell the story pointing out the central message.

In science, we did an apple experiment where we documented the different parts of the apple and whether or not they would sink or float once placed in water. Students were excited because they got to eat the apples at the end. We also did a school-wide M & M activity where the teachers dressed like M & M's and did fun math activities with our students. This was a winner! They loved it and could barely contain themselves waiting to eat their M & M's.

On a thankful note, the first grade team would like to say thank you to the parents and guardians who are always donating to our classrooms. We appreciate you and yes, it takes a village.

Taura Harris

Dr. Dolores Merriweather

## ROCKETS NEWS



## Second Grade

Ms. Huff and Mrs. Ingram

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

In reading, we will be working in Unit 2 (Making Decisions) of our ReadyGEN reading series with *Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich* and *A Chair for My Mother*. These two stories will be followed by *Money Matters* and *I Wanna Iguana*. We will continue to focus on asking and answering questions such as *who, what, where, when, why, and how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. We will also revisit how characters respond to events as well as story structure. We will also practice reading skills such as comparing and contrasting, sequencing, and cause and effect. As it pertains to math, we will continue to focus on place value, addition and subtraction with two digit numbers, with and without regrouping and one and two-step word problems (involving money) with two-digit numbers. Additionally, the students will learn about telling time. Regarding social studies, we will continue to learn about communities, including map skills and geography. In science, we will continue learning about animals with and without backbones and how a variety of animals adapt.

Just a few reminders: We ask that you please read with your child nightly. The students check out books every Monday and test on that book on the following Monday. Also, please practice the basic math facts such as addition and subtraction for automaticity. Lastly, at times, it gets a little chilly in the room and we ask that you please send a sweater to school with your child.

Thank you for your support!

## Third Grade

Mrs. McPherson and Ms. Toney

Third grade is continuing to work on Module A of Unit One in Ready Gen. We are focusing on main idea & details of a story. Our science and social studies concepts are imbedded in the Ready Gen reading program. In math, we are working on rounding, place value, addition, and subtraction. Students will be able to add & subtract up to the thousands place with regrouping.

Please remember to check Class Dojo regularly to see real-time notifications about classroom happenings and check your child's behavior. Thank you to all of the parents who met with us for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Ms. Toney and Mrs. McPherson

## ROCKETS NEWS



## Fourth Grade

### Mr. Chadwell

Our fourth graders' (at Riverdale and across the district) science fair has been pushed back from Wednesday, December 1st to Wednesday, January 19th. The reason for the delay is the poster boards for the science fair projects are on backorder from the company that is providing them to our district. Again, all fourth-grade students MUST complete a science fair project to pass science. This is a District 148 mandate for all fourth and seventh graders.

In Reading our fourth graders are still working out of a book entitled *Porpoises in Peril*, currently focusing on sequencing (the order in which events take place), being able to describe a character in depth in a story with details from the text, using context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases they don't know and writing informative/explanatory paragraphs by clearly introducing their topics and using supporting details to support their topics.

In math we are working on comparing multi-digit numbers via place value and expanded form. Also in math, the next concept our fourth graders will tackle is the rounding of whole numbers.

## Art

### Ms. Shelton

#### PAPER SNOWFLAKES:

They're simple and fun to do, so why not make some colorful paper snowflakes this winter?

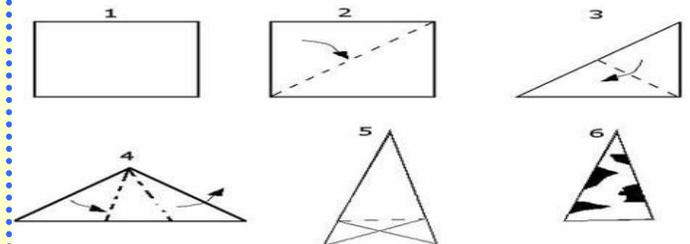
They make great window decorations; they can be attached to Christmas gifts or you can hang them from your Christmas tree. You could even make snowflake jewelry.

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper (make sure it is square).
- Scissors (and some adult help for the littles).

#### WHAT YOU DO:

1. Get a square piece of paper or trim a piece of paper so that it is square.
2. Fold your square in half diagonally (have a look at the picture below).
3. Fold your triangle in half – again diagonally (look at the picture below).
4. Fold paper in thirds ... one side to the front, the other to the back.
5. Trim the extra piece of paper off the end of your small triangle.
6. Around the outside of your triangle, cut some fun designs — circles, squares, triangles, squiggles ... anything goes.
7. Unfold your paper and look at your masterpiece.
8. Voila! A snowflake.



## ROCKETS NEWS



## Physical Education

### Mr. Moore

Winter has arrived and all classes are now held indoors, so please remember that students should bring gym shoes in their book bag when you wear boots to school. Students are applying the skills they have developed in actual soccer games. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will participate in intermural games between classrooms. All students will also be given extra credit opportunities every quarter.

All students will be encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. In doing so that also includes being prepared for those activities. **All students are expected to wear gym shoes to every gym class. Heely boots, sandals, and dress shoes will not be allowed in the gym room.** Female students are encouraged to wear pants, skorts or black or blue shorts with uniform skirts on P.E. days.

**It is very important that parents contact nurse McGowen to facilitate the collection of medical documents from your doctor in reference to asthma and other health concerns.** Also, remember to make arrangements for inhaler storage with the nurse's office.

It is my belief that to attain and maintain academic success, we must have on-going communication. Should you or your child have a question or concern, please feel free to contact me via sending a note, emailing me at [moorej@district148.net](mailto:moorej@district148.net) or calling me at (708) 849-7153 to request a parent conference.

For any concerns that I may have, I will contact you by phone, sending a note home, or emailing you (if an email address is provided) Girl's On The Run and our **new intermural sports programs**. More information on new programs will be forthcoming. We welcome any amount of time, talents, and/or resources that you can offer to make our learning experiences even richer.

P.E. Rules, class and unit schedules are listed below.

Sincerely,  
Coach Moore

# ROCKETS NEWS



Be responsible / respectful  
Always respect your environment

## P.E. 1<sup>st</sup> semester Class Days

<u>Monday / Wednesday Classes</u>	<u>Tuesday/ Thursday Classes</u>
107 / K	110 / K
105 / 1 <sup>st</sup>	106 / 1 <sup>st</sup>
104 / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	103 / 2 <sup>nd</sup>
109 / 3 <sup>rd</sup>	108 / 3 <sup>rd</sup>
101 / 4 <sup>th</sup>	102 / 4 <sup>th</sup>

## Unit schedule

### Fall sports

Soccer  
Physical fitness  
Football

### Winter sports

Basketball  
Floor Hockey  
Bowling

### Spring/ Summer Sports

Kick baseball  
Softball  
Cycling (tentative)  
Gymnastics

## ROCKETS NEWS



## Music

### Mrs. Davis

Kindergarten students did a great job singing for the rest of their class when we were learning about "audience vs performer." They continue to work on keeping a steady beat while singing and marching. Counting beats together as a class with drumsticks is a favorite.

First grade students love to sing their review songs and have energy while doing so! Marching in time is a favorite, and we've been working on reading lyrics to a song together to practice our reading and learning new songs.

Second graders are getting even more familiar with music notes and are starting to do basic music math. They learned a song for Veteran's Day and did well singing together as a class.

Third grade is doing very well with intermediate rhythms and music math. They sing together as a class very well and are able to have songs at "performance level" very quickly. Vocal warm ups are held by the students.

Fourth graders are really understanding how to read music and getting a grasp on how many aspects of music there are to a song. Counting measures, looking at the pitch on the staff while reading lyrics, and keeping the beat while doing the right rhythm is all coming into place for them.

Keep up the good work music students!



## Technology

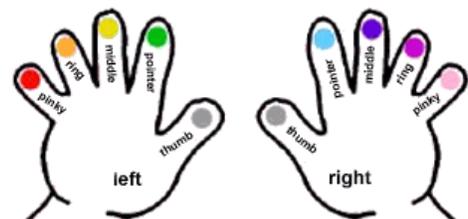
### Ms. Washington

Have a great day!!

Happy December! Here in our computer world students have been working on learning how to identify specific information in a text and then use that information to create a PowerPoint presentation. Everyone has been doing an AWESOME job and I can't wait to see the finished product!

I have instructed ALL STUDENTS to practice their typing over the Thanksgiving Break. We are really working hard at trying to increase their typing speed and decrease their typing errors. Please STAY SAFE & WARM during our time out of school.

## Keyboard Practice



## ROCKETS NEWS



## C.A.R.E

Mrs. Johnson



Mrs. Johnson's CARE Memo:

Suite360:

Grades K-4 are working on social awareness and how to treat other people that guide their behavior. Students are engaged in the Suite360 social emotional curriculum and actively participate each week. Each of their lessons will correspond to a parent lesson to encourage family discussions at home.

Reinforcement Activities:

Students are given opportunities to show how they can accomplish these goals through Restorative Justice, Capturing Kids' Hearts and P.B.I.S. Check out some of these fun activities on [Classdojo.com](https://www.classdojo.com) each Monday and make a family night.

Mrs. Johnson  
C.A.R.E. Facilitator  
708.849.7153 x2324

## P.B.I.S

Mrs. Bivins



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our 2nd quarter has begun, and it is a good time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance for in-person learning, being prepared and ready to learn.

Students should be in every day means your child won't miss out on learning. If your child asks to skip school "just because", remind him/her of what they will miss, such as reading group or art class. Explain that he/she can only be absent if they are sick or if there's a family emergency. Our students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. Thank you for your support in helping your student achieve good attendance at school!

Mrs. Bivins  
Safety Facilitator

## ROCKETS NEWS



**M.T.S.S.**  
Mrs. Patrick

## New Year's Resolution: Help Your Kids Do Great in School

Did you know? Kids whose parents are involved in their education have better grades, a better attitude toward school, and more appropriate school behavior than those with less involved parents.

Consider trying a few of these tips—and make a big difference!

### Tip 1: Get involved

- Visit your child's classroom when you bring your child to school.
- See if your school offers any workshops for parents, and arrange to go!

### Tip 2: Check on homework

- Talk to your child each day about homework.
- Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into smaller parts.
- Give your child a good place to study—away from TV, phone, or loud music.
- Do not use homework as a punishment; include it as part of the daily routine.

### Tip 3: Make home a good place for learning

- Praise and encourage your child.
- Be a role model for getting work done before play.
- Establish a homework routine—same time, same place, every day.
- Most importantly, read to your child or have him read to you every day.

## What should I do if my child isn't doing well in school?

Contact your child's teacher; don't wait for the school to contact you. Ask for specific activities you can do at home with your child. Meet with your child's teacher frequently until the problem is resolved.

## What if my child doesn't like school?

Try to find out why your child seems unhappy with school. Arrange for a conference with the teacher or school counselor. Listen carefully to your child before you offer any solutions.

*Adapted from Lontos, L. How can I be involved in my child's education? ERIC Parent Brochure.*



Lunch with the principal