
PAW PRINTS

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February 9, 2012

From the Principal's Desk Catherine Long

Valentine's Day Parties

Our Valentine's Day parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th at 2:00. Thank you to all of the parents who sent in donations towards the costs of the parties. Parents are welcome to attend if you would like, but we ask that you do not bring young children with you. The rooms get very crowded making it difficult to find a safe space for strollers. Pre-school children who are walking, sometimes get into materials not appropriate for young children. I appreciate your help making the parties an enjoyable experience for everyone! If your child cannot participate for religious or other reasons, please let the school know and we will make appropriate arrangements.

Assessment Schedule

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that all students in grades 3-5, and all students who speak English as a Second Language (ESOL), take yearly exams to monitor their performance. Second grade students in Montgomery County also take a standardized test each spring. You may have read in the news that the second grade assessment, the Terra Nova, will be administered for the final time this spring. Students and teachers have worked very hard all year to master our curriculum and they are ready to prove what they know and can do, but we need them here to show off their abilities! Please make sure your child arrives on time each day we have an assessment. Students cannot enter a classroom once the test begins. It is very helpful if students eat a good breakfast and have a good night's sleep the night before. We appreciate doctor and dentist appointments being scheduled on other days. When we have to administer make up assessments, teachers have to cancel the small

groups they normally work with. Here is our testing schedule for this spring:

ESOL:	February 6-28
Grades 3&4	MSA: March 12, 13, 16, & 19
Grade 5	MSA: March 14, 15, 20, & 21
Grade 5	Science MSA: April 19-20, 23-24, May 2 & 4
Grade 2	Terra Nova: April 16-19

Student Progress Reports

Teachers will be sending home interims or progress reports on Friday, February 17th. If any student is receiving a D or below, or if a grade has dropped by more than one letter (A to C) a progress note must be sent home. Many other progress reports will also be sent out. There is still plenty of time to improve grades for the third quarter. If you receive a progress report, please review it with your child and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Classroom & Group Pictures

The photographers from Blanton Studios will be at Ritchie Park on Thursday, February 16th for class pictures and Friday, February 17th for group pictures. These pictures can be purchased, and order forms are given to students on February 10th. If you are interested in purchasing your child's classroom picture, please fill out the studio's form/envelope and have your child return it to school on our designated picture day. Please mark your calendar for these dates in case you want your child to wear something special. Blanton Studios will accept payment envelopes for a few days after pictures are taken, but it would be very helpful to have all payments on picture day.

Student Corner

January 2012 Winners

Proud Panther/Excellent Effort/Awesome Achievement Award

Proud Panther Awards are awarded to students (K-5) who demonstrate outstanding character by modeling the six PAVE values (responsibility, respect, cooperation, caring, honesty, and moral courage). The following students were *January* winners: **Anusha Patel, Jake Goldberg, Jack Evans, Alexis Bobys, Oren Dubensky, Benny Goodyear, Corin Grace, Eliot Baron, Tara Dinh, Ethan Le, Lauren Block, Megan Block, Gabrielle Halpern, Joceline Ordonez, Alex Meringoff, Jordan Maged, Jordyn Gershoni, Brooke Hilliard, Sarah Saaed, Sophia Kaidi, Giulia Testa, Sophia Karasik.**

Excellent Effort Awards are given to students (K-5) who have positive attitudes toward school work, use feedback to improve their work, and complete work thoughtfully and on time. *January* winners were: **Jean Pierre Linares, Zachary Apatoff, Hannah Chaze, Desiree Miranda, Samuel Segal, Xavier Zelaya, Nathan Han, Ramya Shankar, Brianna Acevedo, Miguel Ribeiro de Castilho Sa, Harris Blumberg, Shakair Donaldson, Rashad Watkins, Thalita Rangel-Bullos, Kevin Zhang, Ben Chen, Jake Berlin, T.J. Dickerson, Julia Robins, Angel Dougherty, Bryce Carroll-Tirado.**

Awesome Achievement Awards are given to students who meet all or most of the grade level indicators in all major subjects each month. The following students were *January* winners: **Audrey Wang, Hailey Chung, Sofia Pinzon, Sophia Scott, Elianna Hart, Addison Leatham, Kimberly Mallari, Charlotte Cole, Brandon Scott, Hope Hetrick, Justin Hetrick, Luke DePue, Antonio Aldana, Daniel Kortepeter, Xavier Porter, McKenna Shay, Soofi Daneshpour, Valeria Kim, Catherine Le, Abubakar Audu, Alexa Vallecillo, Adam Schrier.**

Meet the Ritchie Park Staff- Lifelong Learners

Each edition of Paw Prints will include a short article by a member of the Ritchie Park staff. They will describe something new they have learned to do over the summer, or since the school year started. The Ritchie Park staff is committed to continuous growth!

Meet Adriana Gale, Resource Teacher

Moving to Maryland from Florida has been a learning experience in many ways. I come from a city where it is always above 80 degrees no matter the season of the year. If the temperature drops on a given day, it is back up to above 80 by noon. Miami always feels and looks like summer. You can wear sandals, shorts and tank tops even in winter. You can go to the beach, or have a barbeque all year round. I am pretty sure only about 10% of the population owns a pair of boots, a scarf and a coat.

Coming from tropical weather, experiencing a “real” winter has been exciting but challenging at the same time.

When I first moved to Maryland, as it started to get a little too cold for me, I went to buy a winter coat. I first looked around and visited many stores where I got lots of information on coats and jackets and all the many fillings and materials that keep you warm, warmer and warmest. I had no idea it could get so technical!

I learned from a friend that when using the heater at home, I should keep the thermostat between 68 and 72 degrees. She kindly offered the advice after I told her how I kept the house nice and toasty at about 77 degrees!

Snow plowing, salt to avoid slipping, and removing ice and snow from the car were also things I learned later that winter. When heading to work, leaving the house earlier to allow plenty of extra time to remove ice or snow from the windshield was also a VERY valuable lesson. In addition, with the help of

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Media Center News

Our Reading Incentive Program “**Reading is Enlightening!**” is moving right along as we complete week 18. Percy Jackson was recently overheard telling his friends how great it is that almost 300 students have already started the program! Ms. Fontyn and Mrs. Moradi are pleased to share with everyone that Ritchie Park students have now completed over a HALF MILLION total minutes of reading! Absolutely fabulous! Congratulations go to our next set of **Greek Gods and Goddesses: Mackenzie Caldwell-Degnon, Brooke Seligman, Ivy Seligman, Tara Dinh, Lourdes Wyatt, Evan Picthall, Marlee Heaven, David Sahakian, Sarah Moy, McKenna Shay, Annika Meng, Caleb Hart, Christina Mazza, Jenny Song, Jake Caldwell-Degnon, Gabriela Weaver, Esofi Nunyi, Noah Lincke, Giulia Testa, Calvin Ha, Kenneth Trinh, Valeria Kim, Cindy Chen, James Doyle, Edward Chen, Ian Schiltz, Clare Mulderig, Joshua Stein, Ana McIntyre, Daniel Kortepeter and Jiya Arora.** The

Greek God and Goddess “Wall of Fame” is looking mighty fine in the hallway outside the Media Center!

Meet Mrs. Gale *(continued from page 2)*

unfriendly looks from other drivers, I learned that I should remove ALL snow from the car, not just the windshield and windows. Driving in the snow, while snowing, or after snowing were challenging and at times, scary learning experiences. Finally, I also learned that my dogs do not like snow and that after every outing their paws have to be wiped since salt, antifreeze, and ice between the toes can be harmful.

Winter and snow have definitely been exciting and interesting additions to my life. It has been nice to be able to live in a city where all four seasons are present instead of all year round extremely hot and humid weather, tropical storms and hurricanes. I am currently experiencing my second “real” winter, and I feel a little more confident on what to do when it’s extremely cold or snowing. Only this time with a new challenge: a baby.

Upcoming Events

- February 13th 6th Grade registration cards due to RPES
- February 14th Valentine’s Day
- February 15th Spirit Day – Pajama Day
- February 16th Class Picture Day
- February 17th Group Picture Day
- February 20th Presidents’ Day-Holiday
- February 24th PTA Music & Dance Night



School Vision: Students, staff, parents and community members will work together respectfully and cooperatively to create a safe, positive, inclusive, and academically-rich environment.

School Mission: Our students will demonstrate academic excellence, independent thinking, and growth through the arts. Our staff will provide opportunities that challenge students to reach their potential while fostering the enjoyment of learning. Our parents will prepare students for learning and remain active in their children’s education. The Ritchie Park community will communicate openly, uphold the PAVE values, and share high expectations for self and others