

## *The Dolphin's Tale*

**Travilah Elementary School**  
13801 Dufief Mill Road  
NORTH POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20878

School Telephone: 240-740-4300  
School Fax Number: 240-740-4298  
School Hours: 9:25 am to 3:50 pm



*September 2019*

**Principal:** Dr. Karin Wade  
**PTA President:** Mr. Bryan Greenwald  
**PTA Vice President(s):**  
Mrs. Dilini Abeywarna & Mrs. Robyn Bender

### **Travilah links:**

[PTA Website](#)  
[Travilah school website](#)  
[Twitter: @TravilahES](#)

## **Principal's Letter**

Welcome back to another amazing school year! It was so nice to see so many smiling faces on the first day of school. Thank you all for helping to make sure that our first day of school was a success! We also conducted our first fire drill today. Students had opportunities throughout this week to practice with their teacher. All students were prepared and knew what to do during the drill. During the last week of September, our school will have our first "Safety Week". During this time, we will practice one safety drill per day. These include: Severe Weather Drill, Shelter in Place Drill, Lockdown Drill, and Drop, Cover, & Hold Drill. The purpose of conducting them during the first month of school instead of throughout the year is to prepare students in the event that we have to implement a plan in the event of an emergency. To learn more about the type of drills and emergency preparedness, please click [here](#). In order to help keep the community informed, we will be sending out "The Dolphin's Tale" once a month and will post it on our website. In addition, we will send an email to all community members called "Weekly Updates" each Friday evening that will list important calendar dates and events for our community. However, our school website, and our school Twitter page @TravilahES will be the most common method used to provide up to date information! Warm Regards,

*Karin Wade*

Karin Wade, Ed.D.  
Principal

## **September 2019 Calendar Highlights**

**National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15**

9/10: Back To School Night 6:30 PM - 8:30PM (see schedule below)  
9/13 Back To School Picnic 5:00PM-8:00PM  
9/13: School Spirit Fridays-Wear Your Travilah Colors Blue & White  
9/13: Summer Ice Cream Reading Party (during the school day)  
9/13: Flyer Distribution Day  
9/16: PTA Dine Out Night-Potomac Pizza 4:00PM-9:00PM  
9/18: Volunteer Breakfast  
9/19: Student Picture Day  
9/20: School Spirit Fridays-Wear Your Travilah Colors Blue & White  
9/27: School Spirit Fridays-Wear Your Travilah Colors Blue & White



### BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT INFORMATION

Join us for Back To School Night from 6:30PM-8:30PM! This is an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and hear more from their teacher about the learning and classroom expectations for the school year. Teachers will also provide more information about the new Benchmark Literacy Curriculum during their presentation. We will have two sessions during Back To School Night. Please see below:

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:30-7:15<br>(Grades 3-5) | Session 1 (Grades 3-5)-Parents will go straight to their child's classroom and begin with a live TV presentation from Dr. Wade, Mr. Greenwald (PTA President), and selected staff.  |
| 7:30-8:15<br>(Grades K-2) | Session 2: (Grades K-2)-Parents will go straight to their child's classroom and begin with a live TV presentation from Dr. Wade, Mr. Greenwald (PTA President), and selected staff. |



YOU'RE INVITED! Our annual PTA Back to School Picnic will be held on Friday, September 13th from 5pm-8pm. We celebrate the start of the year with a gathering of community on the school grounds. The PTA provides fun through games, entertainment, music, food and more! We hope to see you there!

### MCPS INFORMATION

**myMCPS Parent Portal**-Have you signed up for [myMCPS Parent Portal](#)? It is important that you sign up to access your child's interims, report cards, attendance, and selected assessment data. Click [HERE](#) for a quick way to create your account and/or sign up! You should receive your parent portal sign up information in the mail during the first few weeks of school.

**myMCPS**  
Parent Portal




**Students Rights & Responsibilities Guide**- In order to ensure a safe, productive and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents, and staff understand school rules and regulations; the expectations for student conduct; and the possible consequences for violating the rules. *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. The MCPS Code of Conduct provides an overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy to discipline. All families received a copy of these documents and are encouraged to review them with your child(ren). The documents are available online at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/).

**Stay Informed with MCPS QuickNotes:** MCPS QuickNotes is a bimonthly newsletter that provides MCPS families with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. MCPS QuickNotes is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit [news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/](http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/) to read the latest edition.



**National Hispanic Heritage Month** Each year, in the United States, National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose lineage is from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central or South America. The Board of Education has proclaimed September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout the month, we will celebrate the unique culture and traditions of students, teachers, staff, and community members who trace their roots to Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. To access more information about Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as a list of local events and educational resources please click [here](#).

### SPECIALISTS & DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATES

| Health Room<br>Jennifer Jones & Ani Jarian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ART<br>Heather Ovenshire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Reading Specialist<br>Courtney Hept                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>If you would like more information regarding head lice - what to do, how to treat etc. please click <a href="#">HERE</a> for information from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Department.</p>                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>I look forward to beginning my fourth year of teaching art at Travilah! Some exciting changes this year are the implementation of the Think Big Cafe arts collaboration in fourth grade and curriculum updates across all grade levels. Feel free to reach out with any questions. I look forward to watching Travilah’s artists grow throughout the school year!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>I am so excited that our school is using the new Reading/Language Arts program this year, Benchmark Advance. This program addresses key shifts in curriculum and instruction to meet the demands of the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. All students will have opportunities to engage with complex grade level text. Stay tuned for more detailed presentations on this program during Back to School Night! Don’t forget to remind your children to turn in their summer reading packets by Sept. 6th! We are preparing for the ice cream party on Sept. 13th. Happy reading!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| Counselor<br>Karen Prestoy-Heyn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ESOL<br>Robyn Goldman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | PHYSICAL EDUCATION<br>Tim O’Connor & Kathryn Desbrow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | MUSIC<br>Moukdahanh Southivong-Chorus, General Music<br>Jennifer Bryan-Instrumental Music                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>I consider myself fortunate to be starting another year supporting your children! I will be meeting with all classes during the first weeks of school to discuss both physical and mental health and safety. Please call (or email) anytime you have a question or concern. I am always happy to talk with parents.</p>  | <p>I am so excited to be a part of the wonderful Travilah Staff. I am new here but not new to teaching in the county. I will be working with each grade level to ensure students who will be meeting with me have a smooth transition in and out of the classroom. I will follow up specifically with you if your child will be part of the ESOL program. I am looking forward to meeting the students, families and being a part of this community.</p> | <p>I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the wonderful students and families here as I begin my ninth year of teaching, but first here at Travilah. Mrs. Desbrow is also new to Travilah and will be teaching P.E. here on Wednesday afternoons. The most important reminder is for your children to wear SNEAKERS and comfortable clothing on their P.E. day. Other than that we are very excited to get this year underway continuing to learn about movement skills and health-related fitness!</p>  | <p>Welcome back to another school year. We are excited to start our fourth year together at Travilah. We have many exciting musical events planned this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue their annual trip to Strathmore. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking part in the Think Big Café with Glenstone Museum and Strathmore. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to start or continue instrumental music. The signup process will happen through the month of September.</p> <p>Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:<br/><u>Tuesday, September 17 – 6:30 p.m.</u> – Instrumental Music Parent Meeting-<i>This meeting is optional but encouraged for parents of students new to instrumental music</i><br/><u>Tuesday, December 10 – 7:00 p.m.</u> – Travilah Winter Concert featuring 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, and Advanced Instrumentalist</p> <p>We look forward to another exciting year making music. We hope to see many of you at our concert in December.</p> |

## Grade Level Monthly Updates

### KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Erin Gilbert , Allison Pecoraro – Team Leader, Shira Tassiello

Welcome families to our wonderful school. We have a great school year planned for your student. Our school is so excited to begin teaching our new reading curriculum. During the first month of school, we will be focusing on school rules, foundations and routines. We will focus on learning our reading and writing routines as well as how to navigate our literacy centers and small group reading.

This is a time set aside for children to express their ideas through pictures and writing. We encourage the children to use the sounds they know to spell words the best they can. We don't focus on whether words are spelled "correctly" at this time. When your child is writing,, we ask that you support our efforts by helping your child to sound out words, but refraining from spelling the words out for them. At the beginning of Kindergarten, most students are nervous about writing and it takes time to nurture their willingness to take the risk to use this "inventive spelling." However, research has shown that children are far more expressive with their ideas when they don't feel limited to a few words that they know they can spell correctly. We thank you for your support!

In math we will be working on the following skills. We will be using position words to describe the location of an object. We will work on counting as well as writing numbers. We will classify and sort objects in different ways and explain our thinking. In social studies we will be focusing on school rules and U.S. symbols. In Science students will be making observations about the weather. We can't wait for this exciting year to start!



### FIRST GRADE TEAM

Bonnie Foley, Tiffany Rivera – Team Leader

The first grade team enjoyed seeing so many of you at "Sneak Peek", and we are so excited for the year to begin. In an effort to maintain an open line of communication, we have a variety of ways to keep in touch. A great way to stay informed about what is happening in first grade is our website. You can find it at [www.TravilahFirstGrade.com](http://www.TravilahFirstGrade.com). Please let us know if there is any additional information you would like to see there. Next, your child received a blue take home folder on the first day of school, please check it nightly and return it to school with your child in the morning. Finally, we are available by email and phone when we are not with students or our own families.

Our team works as a cohesive unit with many staff members in the building, and often the first graders will be learning as a whole grade level. We believe learning should be fun, engaging, and interactive, and work hard to provide a variety of learning opportunities, across various settings, for each student.

In Math, we will focus on building mathematical foundations. We will spend most of the time analyzing numbers; breaking them apart, putting them back together, and determining what each digit means. We will also practice counting on and back from a given number. In Literacy, we will be implementing the new Benchmark Advance curriculum. For all of September we will be building a community of learners, which connects nicely with our Social Studies curriculum. We will identify roles and responsibilities in our community, work together to establish routines, and set expectations that will assist all of us in becoming excellent readers and writers! We will also sharpen our phonics skills, and learn about using accountable talk so we can have meaningful discussions about all types of writing. In Science, we are really excited to explore the phenomenon of the moon and sun in the sky. We will observe patterns and draw conclusions together!

Finally, during our weekly class meetings we will be discussing virtues, what it means to be of good character in and out of the classroom, and what it looks like in the classroom. As the year progresses we will decide as a class upon which we would like to work, but our first focus will be Orderliness. We are excited for 1st grade to get off to a great start!

### SECOND GRADE TEAM

Debbie Facine– Team Leader, Karen Jarczynski, Susie Rosenbaum (long-term substitute for Mrs. Potts)

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! Our second grade students are building a classroom of learners through discussing expectations, learning about each other through collaborative activities, and establishing classroom and school routines.

This year, our second grade students will build literacy and language skills by participating in cross-disciplinary units of study in our new Benchmark Advance Program. Each three-week unit will focus on one topic. The topics will range from economics to earth science, and history and culture to themes in literature. As the students read poems, stories, plays, and informational articles, each second grader will strengthen

### THIRD GRADE TEAM

Kerry Bowman – Team Leader, Susan Chidakel, Brooke Perel

We are off to a great start in third grade! We will spend our first days as a class setting a strong foundation for learning by building classroom community, discussing goals and expectations for the year and getting to know one another.

This year, our third grade students will build literacy and language skills by participating in ten cross-disciplinary units of study using the new reading and language arts program, Benchmark Advance. We are very excited to be working in this program with our students. In the first few weeks of school, students will become familiar with the routines for reading and writing during our literacy block. Our first unit of study will focus on "Government for the People".

their reading and writing skills and strategies, participate in meaningful collaborative conversations, and make connections to their other content area studies. In our first unit of study, “Government at Work,” we will be learning about the role that government plays in our lives. For example, police officers and firefighters help keep us safe, and local workers help keep parks beautiful and clean. We will also be learning about laws—what they are, why they matter, and what happens when we break them.

In math, our second grade students will be establishing daily math routines through modeling, engaging instruction, and independent work to show understanding of concepts. Second graders will learn about counting within 1,000 by 10’s and 100’s, understanding place value by identifying hundreds, tens, and ones of a given number, and mental strategies of adding numbers with sums up to 20.

In social studies, our learning will be focused on the relationships among rights, responsibilities, and democratic ideas. In science, our learning will be focused on describing and classifying different kinds of materials by their observable properties.

We are looking forward to working with each student and family for a successful second grade year!

In math, students will be reviewing place value before we round numbers to the nearest 100 and the nearest 10. We will also be adding and subtracting three digit numbers and problem solving. In social studies, students are examining traits of being a good citizen, working for the common good and civics. In science, students will investigate the phenomena of forces. We will also focus on balanced and unbalanced forces and make predictions about patterns of motion. Students will then learn about magnetic forces. In quarter one, in integrated reading and health, we will focus on work habits and study skills. Students will be keeping binders in third grade as an organizational tool. All papers will be filed by subject and an assignment book will be kept in the binder. Students should bring their binders to school each day and they will be coming home each day. Please check the binder with your child each evening. This is a great organizational and communication tool. We are excited to begin a new year of learning!



#### FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Carol Knoblach, Amber Shafer– Team Leader, Sudha Singal

The fourth graders are off to a great start! We are spending the first few days building a strong classroom community and fostering positive relationships that will be important throughout this upcoming school year.

We are excited to implement our new reading curriculum, Benchmark Advance! The first 15 days of the curriculum are spent establishing and reviewing important classroom procedures and routines for our reading block. Math classes will begin their exploration of place value. Students will be reviewing and learning how to read, write, round, and compare numbers up to 6-digits. We are also strengthening our students’ foundational skills with quick daily math practice. Please remind your child to practice their math facts as it is a critical skill for later fourth grade concepts. In social studies, we will start by identifying the human-made and natural-made features in Maryland. Understanding our geographic location and geographic features helps students identify the resources available to survive in our area. In science, students will focus on energy and understanding how energy can be transferred.

In fourth grade, we strongly encourage the use of the assignment book in order to help students develop the important skills of organization and time management. This is a great tool that we will use at school for students to record nightly homework and any other reminders for themselves (i.e. bring instrument or wear sneakers for PE). Your role in this learning experience is to initial in the space indicated in the assignment book showing your support of their homework. We consider this task your student’s responsibility, so they should come to you for your initials. We are confident this will be a fun and successful year for all!

#### FIFTH GRADE TEAM

Jodi Hart – Team Leader, Megan Herman, Ashley White

Fifth-grade students are amazing and eager to continue deepening and broadening their knowledge. We are so happy to have the opportunity to get to know your children, watch them grow, and instruct them.

This year MCPS is using a new reading/language arts program, Benchmark Advance. The program is tailored to meet the demands of today’s Standards. Students will engage with more rigorous and complex texts as they examine and analyze in-depth to interpret various texts. The first fifteen days of reading instruction focuses on routines and reviews implementing teacher-led modeling. At the start of each unit, students will bring home a family letter describing the unit of study. Our first unit of study is *The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now.*

The instructional focus for Social Studies begins with students investigating how different perspectives can lead to conflict and compromise. Our unit of study ends with analyzing and exploring the roles and viewpoints of individuals and groups during and after the American Revolutionary War.

Marking Period 1 Health curriculum focuses on students practicing collaboration skills as they demonstrate healthy ways to communicate needs, wants, emotions, opinions, and information. We will also work on time management strategies to effectively reduce stress in a variety of situations.

Science is hands on and engaging as we identify the structure and properties of matter as well as chemical reactions.

Math 5 mathematical standards include using standard algorithm to multiply multi-digit whole numbers, writing and interpreting numerical expressions, and identifying and determining volume.

Compacted Math focuses on multiplication with fractions, division of whole numbers by fractions, and division of fractions by whole numbers.

Fifth grade has a rich and rewarding curriculum. We appreciate your



support this year as we look forward to an engaging and fabulous year!

PTA Reflections is back at Travilah!! This is a Nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Reflections Art Contest is a great way for your child to express themselves in many different artistic ways. K to Grade 5 can participate. Kids can Write a Poem or a Story, Take a Picture, choreograph a dance, make a movie, Compose a piece of Music or Create a piece of Visual Art. Each Art Piece must Interpret the theme "Look Within". Please be sure to submit your student interest form by October 1st and your original work of arts by November 21st along with the Entry Form. For more details visit <https://mdpta.org/reflections/> or contact, Ramya Kumar at [travilahptareflections@gmail.com](mailto:travilahptareflections@gmail.com)

## Travilah Elementary School



## Outstanding Staff 2019-2020

### PRINCIPAL

Karin Wade

### MAIN OFFICE

Patricia Hairston - Admin Secretary  
Karen Foecking - Attendance Secretary

### KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Erin Gilbert  
Allison Pecoraro – Team Leader  
Shira Tassiello

### FIRST GRADE TEAM

Bonnie Foley  
Tiffany Rivera – Team Leader

### SECOND GRADE TEAM

Debbie Facine– Team Leader  
Karen Jarczyński  
Susie Rosenbaum (long- term substitute)

### THIRD GRADE TEAM

Kerry Bowman – Team Leader  
Susan Chidakel  
Brooke Perel

### FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Carol Knobloch  
Amber Shafer– Team Leader  
Sudha Singal

### FIFTH GRADE TEAM

Jodi Hart – Team Leader  
Megan Herman  
Ashley White

### READING INITIATIVE

Leighann O'Connor

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Jodi Rubenstein

### READING SPECIALIST

Courtney Hept

### GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Karen Prestoy-Heyn

### RESOURCE TEACHERS

Kelly Ham  
Rinese Dixon

### SPEECH TEACHER

Anne Evans

### ESOL TEACHER

Robyn Goldman

### SPECIALISTS TEAM

Jennifer Bryan – Instrumental Music Teacher  
Tim O'Connor – P.E.  
Kathryn Desbrow-P.E.  
Heather Ovenshire – Art Teacher  
Moukdavanh Southivong – Music Teacher

### SUPPORT STAFF TEAM

Sarah Barrett  
Maria Clothier  
Lisa Meringoff  
Nasrin Rouhanian  
Nina Al-Attas (Seibert)  
Barbara Smith

**MEDIA TEAM**

Jill Simkanich – Media Specialist  
Susan Potts – Media Assistant

**BUILDING SERVICES TEAM**

Francis Davis – Manager  
Sonya Orellana – Building Service  
Ted Rollins – Building Service

**HEALTH ROOM**

Ani Jarian – Health Tech  
Jennifer Jones – Nurse

**CAFETERIA**

Lily Ye – Manager

**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**

Michael Hyman