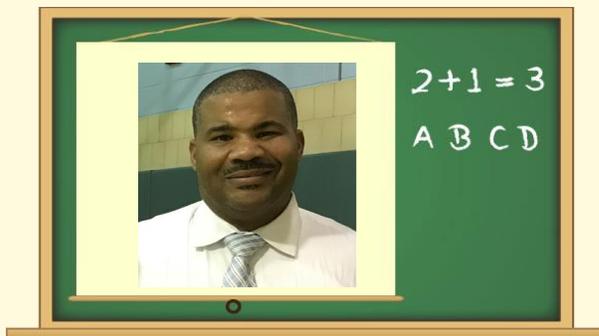


WOODLIN WIZARD NEWS

December 2018



Hello, Wizard Parents.

Woodlin has a **new accountability report card**, which was recently released for your review.

The accountability report card is produced by **the Maryland State Department of Education** for every school in the state of Maryland.

The report card is **designed to measure school success** in several ways.

The new accountability report card includes state test results in English Language Arts and math, postsecondary readiness, progress of English learners in achieving English language proficiency, graduation rate, and students with access to and earning credit for a well-rounded curriculum.

You can find the accountability report card for Woodlin Elementary at this address:

[http://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Report Cards/ReportCardSchool/3/17/6/15/0764](http://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/ReportCards/ReportCardSchool/3/17/6/15/0764)

While the Maryland Report Card does provide important information about our MCPS schools, it only provides a limited view into the progress of our more than 163,000 students, according to our Superintendent of Schools Jack Smith.

To better understand how our schools are serving all our students, **MCPS has developed its own Equity Accountability Model** that provides a more detailed and focused report of school success.

The MCPS Equity Accountability Model uses multiple and frequent measures of students' progress to determine if a school is meeting the needs of ALL students with a special emphasis on reducing and eliminating disparities in student achievement.

You can view data for the MCPS Equity Accountability Model when it is published in January 2019.

With 2019 upon us, I am wishing you all a new year full of the joy and support of family and friends.

Craig Jackson



Mrs. Scott's Home & School Connection: December Tip

It's important to be involved with your child's education, but what's the best way to do so?

Research shows that supporting your child's education at home is one of the most important ways to stay involved with your child's education.

Here are a few things you can do to stay involved:

- Show your child that you are interested by asking him or her what work they brought home every day.
- Look at completed work to find out what your child is learning and how he or she is doing.
- Make positive comments about what your child is learning, respond to notes from the teacher, and sign any work that requires your signature for completion.

Parent involvement at home motivates children to establish good study habits and to do their best.



Kindergarten – December Activity

Kindergarten is well underway! We have been having so much learning about new things and working together with our friends!

We've really come a long way in **writing**! In December, we will be **creating true life stories** and drawing so many details about our life! It is amazing how we are able to **write sentences** and **stretch out words** to match our stories.

In **reading**, we will be reading fiction and non-fiction texts. We will **practice retelling stories** by learning about nursery rhymes and sequencing stories. Our **gingerbread unit will be in December**, and it is so much fun! One of our favorite activities is making gingerbread cookies. Yum!

In **math**, we will be **measuring, weighing, counting**, and **keeping track of growing sets of numbers**. We will be keeping busy!

In **science and social studies**, we will be engaged in life cycles of plants, animals, landforms, and bodies of water. Be on the lookout for some creative projects to come home.

December is quite a **busy month** in kindergarten!

Special Message: Please remember that as **the weather gets colder**, we often still go out for recess, so **hats and gloves are recommended**



First Grade – December Activity

In the month of December, first grade students in **reading** will be **comparing** and **contrasting** the **adventures of characters in different stories**. They will also compose **persuasive writing**, using the ideas of others to strengthen their opinion.

In **math**, students will also **solve problems involving two-digit numbers**.

In December, our students will pack their suitcases and get their passports ready for a **virtual trip around the world!!!** We will travel the world **to learn about some winter holidays** that are **celebrated in different countries**. Some of the countries we will visit include **Poland, Netherlands, Mexico, China, and Israel**.

Lastly, students will **make many holiday crafts** that tie in with our learning, and we will have a **class holiday party**. More details to come... 😊



Second Grade – December Activity

We had a great November full of learning and growing! We really enjoyed our trip to the **Strathmore** to help solidify our knowledge of instruments and their roles in an orchestra.

We're excited for another **great month in December!**

In **reading**, we started our **new Lucy Calkins unit**. We also will be moving back to literature in reading where we will be engaging with **new Junior Great Books** and **Jacob's Ladder stories**.

In **writing**, our students will be continuing their work on **writing lab reports and other types of scientific writing**.

In **science**, we will be **finishing our science unit on landforms and Earth changes**, which includes some great experiments about erosion and map creation.

We will have a busy few weeks before **winter break!**



Third Grade – December Activity

During the month of December, third graders in **math** will continue with **multiplication facts, patterns and strategies within 10**.

In **reading**, our students will **read and understand part of plays** and determine the central message. We will **explore informational text** and find the main idea using key details.

In **writing**, our students will finalize their **informational books** and **celebrate the end of Unit 2**.

In **social studies**, students will **explore geographic characteristics** of Montgomery County, Maryland, the United States, North America and African Regions.

In **science**, students will **study weather and climate** and extend their understanding of severe weather.

Special Event:

- On **December 19**, third graders will **build gingerbread houses**.



Fourth Grade – December Activity

Fourth graders had a great time in November. Here is what's coming up in December.

In **math**, our students will **extend their understanding of fractions and whole numbers**. Students will work on building fractions from unit fractions, as well as broadening their understandings about adding and subtracting whole numbers, to add and subtract fractions with like denominators. Students will apply and extend understandings about multiplication and equal groups to understand fractions as multiples of unit fractions and multiply a fraction by a whole number. Students also will use models, contexts, and reasoning to develop critical understandings of the meaning of the operations with fractions.

In **science**, students will **develop an understanding of the needs of both plants and animals** through the development of classroom-based ecosystems/eco columns (aquariums and terrariums).

In **reading**, students will read several **Junior Great Books** literature selections and **Nonfiction Inquiry texts**. Students will engage in extension activities to strengthen and deepen their understanding of the text and its connection to the concept of communication.

In **writing**, through the Calkins units of study, students will **write personal and persuasive essays** through flash-drafts, developing thesis statements, gathering and organizing evidence, developing strong introductions and conclusions, and evaluating clarity through self-reflection.



Fifth Grade – December Activity

What's happening in fifth grade in December?

In December, our **math 5** students will focus on solving problems that require **multiplication** and **division** of decimals. They will also be dividing multi-digit numbers by 2-digit divisors (ex. $439 \div 17$).

Our **math 5/6** students will apply their understanding of **ratios** and **rates** to solve real-life examples. Students will use double number lines, tape diagrams, and equations to solve problems involving ratios and rates. Students will also develop a deeper understanding of how to **divide fractions**.

In **literacy**, we will be using a variety of fiction and informational texts to **identify the author's purpose** and to **summarize the text**. In Literature, students will continue to **hone their close reading skills**. Students are meeting in literature circles to discuss their ideas while reading a common novel.

In **writing**, we will be using the Lucy Calkins writing program to help our students **develop their informational writing skills**. They will be learning how to **take notes** (instead of copying) from a text. They will also **write at least one opinion piece**.

In **science**, we will be learning more about **wave properties** and how they are applied to global communication devices.

In **social studies**, we will continue to **study the causes and events that led to the American Revolution**.

Reminder:

- Does your child have the **necessary supplies** for school (lined paper, pencils, pen)?

Special Event:

- Don't miss the **Winter Chorus Concert** on **December 19 at 7:00** (in the gym), where our fifth graders will be showcasing their musical talents.

Thank You!
