

MOUNT SAVAGE NEWS

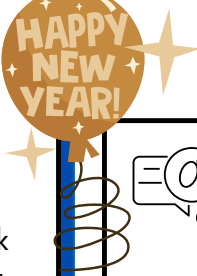
January/February 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year from the staff at Mount Savage School!

We hope you have a relaxing holiday break with friends and family and are rested and ready to start 2024. Please take note of the calendar on the next page, as we have many activities taking place in the coming months. We will be wrapping up another marking period soon and are looking forward to a fun and productive winter season!

Dr. Laura Holland,
Principal



OFFICE UPDATES

Address & Contact Updates

If you move during the school year, please be sure to let the main office know and provide an updated proof of residence (lease, utility bill, bank statement).

If your phone number or email address needs updated, please call us as soon as possible so you don't miss out on important announcements.

NURSE'S CORNER

Staying Healthy During Cold & Flu Season

From physicians to the national Centers for Disease Control, experts agree – with the cold and flu season, the best way to combat the flu and other illnesses this season is through preventive measures. Getting influenza (flu) vaccine is your best defense against getting the flu, but use the following tips to fight the flu and other illnesses:

- ★ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizing gel.
- ★ Get the flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available, and discuss with your health care provider if you are due for other vaccinations.
- ★ Stay home and limit your contact with others, especially if you are sick.
- ★ Cover your nose and mouth with a face covering in public places.
- ★ Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
- ★ Use tissues for coughs and sneezes and dispose of them in the trash.
- ★ Avoid large groups and practice physical distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others) even when wearing a face covering or outside.



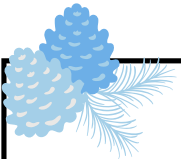
Upcoming Events

	January
1	Schools & Offices CLOSED (Christmas Break)
2	3-Hour Delayed Opening (AM Principal Staff Development)
9	5th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school) 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Mt Savage (after school)
10	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
11	End of 2nd Marking Period/1st Semester
12	3-Hour Early Dismissal (PM-Teacher Work Time)
15	Schools & Offices CLOSED (MLK Jr Day)
16	5th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school) 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Mt Savage (after school)
17	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
23	5th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school) 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Mt Savage (after school)
24	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
26	Report Cards Released in Aspen Maryland Food Bank 11:30-1:30
30	5th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school) 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Mt Savage (after school)
31	Middle School STARS Breakfast 8:00am Elementary Extra Effort & Awards 1:00pm Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
	February
6	5th & 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school)
7	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
13	5th & 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school)
14	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
19	Schools & Offices CLOSED (Presidents' Day)
20	5th & 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school)
21	Carnegie Science Center visit to Pre-K (AM) All-County Middle/Senior Band @ Fort Hill (9:00-4:00) Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
22	All-County Middle/Senior Band @ Fort Hill (9:00-1:30) All-County Middle/Senior Band Concert @ Fort Hill (7:00pm)
23	Maryland Food Bank 11:30-1:30
2/26-3/1	PTA Spring Book Fair
27	5th & 6th Grade Honor Band Rehearsals @ Braddock (after school)
28	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal 5-6 @ Washington Middle (after school)
29	All-County Middle/Senior Band Concert @ Fort Hill (7:00pm) *snow date*



**The Cafeteria Staff
wishes all our students
and staff a very Merry
Christmas and a joyful
New Year!**





PRE-K NEWS

Hi there and Happy Holidays!

We are having so much fun in Pre-K crafting and getting ready for the upcoming holidays. Along with crafting, we have been busy growing our brains and getting smarter each and every day!

We have finished our first rotation of learning the alphabet where we focused on letter recognition and now we are on our second rotation and will focus on learning letter sounds! We are also sharpening up our rhyming skills, blending and decoding words, and are getting really good at onset fluency.

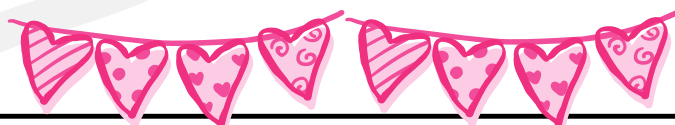
In math, we are focusing on shapes and how they are all around us. Recently, students were given a random shape and had to make something out of it. Students got so creative, they made suns and ice cream out of circles and trucks and houses out of rectangles. We will be learning about 3D shapes, measuring, and opposites in the upcoming weeks. We have so much to look forward to.

Student computers get sent home every Tuesday, and they have a schoology assignment to complete.

Computers are to be turned in the very next day. Please assist your student in doing so! Raising a Reader is going great. Be sure to take advantage of the books that get sent home and read nightly.

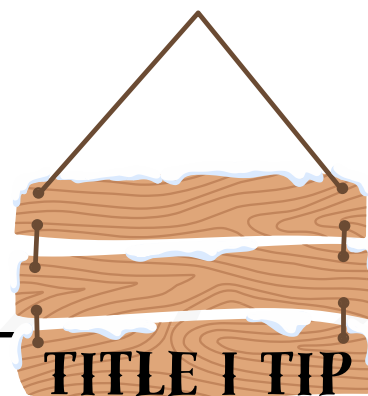
I am so proud of how well we are progressing and am excited to see how far we go this year.

Mrs. Harris



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Hooray, it is getting closer to the 100 th day of school!! Kindergarten students have been counting down to the 100th day celebration, and this special day will be here sometime in February. Parents will receive a letter about the 100th day activities occurring in the classroom. Kindergarteners are also excited for Valentine's Day to arrive. Kindergarten will make their own Valentine's box for the Valentine's Day celebration. For January, we will be reading several winter books and learning about winter animals. For reading, we will continue to learn new alphabet letters, high-frequency words, and blend CVC words. For math, we have been very busy learning 2D and 3D shapes, counting 1-100, and we will start adding and subtracting numbers in January. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Christmas break! Happy Holidays!



1ST GRADE NEWS

Happy Holidays!! First grade will continue with lots of hands-on learning in math as we move into adding and subtracting within 20. We are always working hard to recognize and demonstrate the relationship between addition and subtraction as we solve word problems. A big focus is on how to show our "math thinking" in words, numbers, pictures and equations. As we move forward in reading, we will start learning all about long vowel sounds in different spelling patterns to decode and read new words and stories with our Superkid friends! We are still concentrating on the daily task of writing in complete sentences with correct capitalization and end punctuation. We will be covering light and sound in our upcoming Science units and geography in Social Studies. We cannot believe we will be wrapping up 2023, and we are looking forward to all of the learning that will happen as we enter into the New Year of 2024! We wish all of our families and friends a very Happy, Healthy, MERRY CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR Season!!!! Enjoy the winter holiday vacation!

TITLE I TIP

TITLE I PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Parent/family engagement is an important factor in the academic success of students. This plan describes how the Allegany County Public Schools will plan and support programs, activities and procedures for involving parents/families in all schools with a Title I program. The policy is also posted in our school and is on the Allegany County Public Schools' website:
www.acpsmd.org

2ND GRADE NEWS

'Tis the season in second grade!! We are so very excited to be in December and all the joy that the season brings. We will be doing some cross curricular unit studies based on the books *The Polar Express* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. There will be lots of grinchy work with plot, opinion writing, and STEM activities!

In math, we are working on solving addition and subtraction word problems with larger numbers. Our next units will be about money and time! To help your child at home, begin practicing identifying the names of the different coins. Did you get some change after buying something? Have your child sort the coins by their type, practice the names, and how much each coin is worth. While driving in the car, practice skip counting by 5s and 10s to help practice counting nickels and dimes!

After winter break, we will be starting cursive!!! Everyone is working so hard to improve their printing skills to be ready to learn cursive next! January and February will bring many new units and many new skills. It's an exciting season!



3RD GRADE NEWS

Third grade is an exciting place to be as we launch into the holiday season! In reading, we've been learning about some of the systems in our bodies. Did you know your body has BILLIONS of nerves? Over the next few months we'll be learning about space, planets, comets, asteroids and other objects flying through space. We'll also be reading about light and sound and how we use both in our daily lives. In math, we're hard at work memorizing math facts. We'll start using those facts soon as we study how to find the area of objects (especially rectangles). After that...it's fraction time! In social studies, we're finishing up a unit on Allegany County and we're looking forward to learning about economics. In science, we're finishing up physics and will soon be learning about water and climate. Third grade wants to wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons. While we're excited about our upcoming holiday break we're even more excited about getting back to it in 2024!

4TH GRADE NEWS

During the months of January and February, fourth grade will be learning how to solve larger multiplication and division problems using multiple strategies. Be sure to study and memorize your basic facts! In ELA, we will be finishing our study of poetry by reading and interpreting various poems. Then, we will change over to our Geology unit where we will learn about earthquakes and volcanoes. Finally, during Science, we will complete a unit on Energy by studying circuits, magnets, energy transfer, and waves. We will be very busy during these winter months!





5TH GRADE NEWS

Fifth grade has been busy!

In ELA, we have been working on Unit 4 Don Quixote. Students have analyzed pieces of text evidence through different perspectives and used this skill to construct a persuasive essay. They have been hard at work constructing writing pieces that reflect the master writers they are becoming! Next, we will be diving into Unit 5 where students will study the Renaissance and construct an informational writing piece about their favorite artist from that time period.

Students have been working through Unit 2 by adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. They then applied their knowledge by solving real world problems using the skills mastered throughout the unit. In Unit 3, students will be multiplying and dividing using fractions and decimals.

Science and social studies have also been busy as students have switch back and forth between Mr. Kinser and Mrs. Winebrenner. In social studies, Mrs. Winebrenner wrapped up the study of the Constitution and separation of powers within our government. Next, students will be exploring the causes, events, and outcomes of the Civil War. In science with Mr. Kinser, students have finished learning about systems and what parts make it function correctly. Students created their own food chains and food webs using nature cards and understanding which represent consumer, producer, and decomposer. Students are now going to be learning about Earth, Sun, and space which will involve topics such as shadows, the Sun's position, and how our solar system operates.

Surprise! Join us in the Hundred Acre Wood this Spring! This 30 minute special edition musical is geared toward young audiences and will be presented on the stage at Mt. Savage Middle School. Audition information will be released soon.

With a guest director and a guest music director, we can't wait to see this show come to life!



GUIDANCE NEWS

Holiday Greetings Mt. Savage Families from your School Counselor! There is much news from the counselor's curriculum! Classroom lessons are now focusing on the county wide Toolbox Program. This program teaches personal coping skills development and self-management of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. I will be sending home an overview sheet that covers all 12 tools for you to review and discuss with your child(ren). Students are learning one tool per week. We have already completed the Breathing Tool and are working on the Quiet/Safe Place tool currently. PBIS Chief Citizen is in full swing and students are being recognized for good behavior each week with many of them being honored more than one time! Go Good Behavior!! In January, my school wide Organizational Program will be implemented. Back in September, students received lessons on how to be better organized at school and at home. The school wide program conducts surprise visits to the classroom to check for completion of organizational tasks INCLUDING good attendance of 90% or higher. Please help your child(ren) get to school daily to help support classroom rewards. Students are rewarded on full classroom completion of tasks, not individual. This teaches the students cooperation, teamwork, and kindness to help each other be organized with their tasks. Attendance requires parental cooperation, teamwork, and kindness to help their child(ren) fulfill successful attendance requirements. As always, if you have any questions/concerns for your child(ren) please call me. Take good care!

Stephanie Robison





DOOR DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to our holiday door decorating contest winners! In middle school, Ms. Clarke's co-curricular group won the first place title! In the elementary school, we had a 3-way tie for first place - congratulations to Mrs. Beeman's, Mrs. Sindy's, and Ms. Schurg's classes!



Ms. Clarke



Mrs. Sindy



Ms. Schurg



Mrs. Beeman

CREATIVE ARTS NEWS

Happy New Year from the
Creative Arts Department

There are lots of exciting activities going on in our department. In Phys Ed, mid-year fitness tests are beginning. All students will be doing pacers, push-ups, and sit and reach assessments. PE students are also creating jump rope routines

In Family and Consumer Science, 8th graders will be cooking a spaghetti dinner, 7th graders will be making beef and turkey tacos, and 6th will be fixing Spanish rice.

All-County Band auditions will take place in January for 7th and 8th graders, and the 6th grade Honor Band will be traveling to Braddock Middle School to rehearse with other 6th graders from around the county as they prepare for a concert in March.

8TH GRADE NEWS

The 8th grade SHOP would like to thank everyone that helped make the Thanksgiving food drive successful. The students collected enough food to help 24 local families. The SHOP Annual Christmas Tree is up and located in the front lobby. The SHOP students will be helping five Mount Savage School families this year. The families chosen have students in both the elementary and middle school. Tags with gift suggestions are placed on the tree. Mrs. Williams, SHOP advisor, would like any gifts purchased for the family to be brought to school by Wednesday, December 15. Gifts should be wrapped and the gift tag placed on the outside of the box. This will allow time for SHOP students to organize and deliver the gifts prior to Christmas break. SHOP will also be having a Holiday Spirit Week, December 11-15, to help raise money for this endeavor. Be ready to break out that tacky holiday sweater!