Principal Ponderings

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Timonium Elementary School! Thanks to your many generous donations, our PTA Race for Education raised more than $32,000 which will help fund many enriched learning experiences in our classrooms, as well as our new playground. Students, staff and families enjoyed being outside and exercising. Because we reached and exceeded our goal, students enjoyed throwing pies in mine and Mr. Scarfile’s faces, as well as watching Mr. Scarfile have his head shaved. The annual Food Drive was also a huge success. The total food donations weighed in at 420 lbs. We donated most of the food to ACTC, Assistance Center of Towson Churches, and some of the donations went to families at Timonium. Many thanks to parent volunteers and staff who helped with weighing and organizing all the donations. Our Giving Tree is full of warm and cozy hats, mittens, and coats which will be donated to Timonium families and local communities. As a staff it is gratifying to see our children proudly add their donations to the tree.

This month our fifth-grade chorus, band and orchestra shared their musical talents with the whole school during the day and with their guests in the evening. We all enjoyed watching our students work as teams to perform for us.

MSDE’s accountability tool, The Maryland School Report Card, was released a few weeks ago. These report cards reflect school progress toward performance indicators on ESSA (Maryland Every Student Succeeds Act). The Maryland Report Card displays data by measure for each indicator, provides a star rating for each school based on the percent of points earned, and reports achievement proficiency by aggregate and subgroup. Timonium Elementary’s report card reflected performance as a five-star school, earning five out of five stars, with a percentile rank of 93%! ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ Congratulations to our dedicated staff members and hardworking students. For additional information about the report card, use the following link: https://msp2018.msde.maryland.gov/SchoolsList/Index?l=99.

At this busy time of the year and during the winter break, delight in the achievements of your children, snuggle up and read a book together, share meals with family and friends, and understand that Timonium Elementary is successful due to the concerted efforts of all involved. Thank you for your continued support. Happy New Year!

Fondly,
Laurie L. Brown
Happy Holidays! Thank you for visiting our classroom during American Education Week and for attending the fall conferences. We have been busy in Kindergarten. Wild turkeys were sighted this month in A-wing. The students were able to participate in their first Race for Education.

We have learned the sounds for the letters P, A, H, and N. We are beginning to focus on reading and spelling words with these letters in addition to the letters that were previously taught. In math, we have begun our unit on measurement, counting and the number system. During our reading and literacy centers block we have been working on our reading strategies in order to better understand our stories and activities.

We are super excited that we are now taking 100 Book Challenge home! Don’t forget to listen to your child read each night and practice the words that are sent home.

The first graders have been busy this fall. We took an amazing journey around the world. This event couldn’t have been possible without the volunteers who taught about the 7 continents and all the oceans. Students completed the fiction unit where we focused using the five finger retell. To finish off the first unit, students were very successful when creating a house for the 4th little pig. Currently, students are reading non-fiction texts focusing on text features and retelling using main topic and key details. Students continue to blend letter sounds creating new words in phonics. As new high frequency words are introduced, we encourage you to review them each night in addition to previous homework lists. In math, students finished naming attributes of various 2-D shapes. Now, we are practicing addition and subtraction story problems using the SOLVE organizer. First graders are learning about their plate and healthy food options. They were able to create a balanced plate with each of the categories.

Please make sure your child has an extra set of clothes in his or her locker that fit and are weather appropriate.
Second grade has certainly been busy this Fall! We want to thank all the family and friends who took time from their busy schedules to visit during American Education Week. We enjoyed sharing our personal narrative books with everyone!

Our hard work continues in both English language arts and math. We have begun Unit 2 in ELA which focuses on reading, comprehending, and writing nonfiction text. We had a refresher on text features and images and are now working on main topic and details. In math, we are in Unit 3 which focuses on addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers as well as continued work on our problem-solving skills.

The second quarter brings our first social studies unit about the United States. We guide students on such topics as government leaders, public goods and services, regions, and democratic ideas.

December brings seasonal activities. Our “On-the-Go” portable Maker Learning Lab will visit each classroom so students can create their own gingerbread house using cardboard and the materials available on the lab cart. On the afternoon of December 20th, we will have our winter holiday party.

As the weather grows much colder, please remember to dress your children appropriately and to have extra cold weather clothing in their lockers for any accidents/spills that can occur during the school day.

We wish you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

It was so great seeing so many parents, friends, and families during American Education Week last month!

In ELA, we are in the unit Stories that Teach – Fables, Folktales, and Myths from Diverse Cultures. In this unit, students will be reading a variety of literary selections from around the world that emphasize life lessons and morals. Stories include classic fables and modern folktales with ancient origins from the American Southwest, Cuba, and China as well as myths of Greek origins.

In Math, we are in Unit 2: Strategies and Properties for Addition and Subtraction. In this unit students use place value, properties of operations, and number sense to perform multi-digit arithmetic. Students organize, display, and interpret data by constructing and reading graphs.

In Social Studies, we are in our Asia unit. In this unit, students will understand the diversity found in Asia. Students will study elements of geography, civics, culture, and history in different countries of Asia to practice core social studies skills. They will also gain an understanding about how these elements are similar and different in various parts of the continent. Students will focus on the countries of India, China, and Japan, thus providing a glimpse into the different regions of the continent.

As the weather is getting colder, please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for approximately 20 minutes of outdoor recess. This includes a winter coat, gloves, hat, scarf, etc…
In Math, students just completed the Strategies and Properties of Multiplication unit. We are beginning the Strategies and Properties of Division unit. We discussed that division is the inverse operation of multiplication, and ways to use multiplication to solve a division problem. Students are excited to work through a variety of activities in Number Corner, a portion of our new Bridges math curriculum.

In Reading, we finished our Kate DiCamillo novels and researched how Ms. DiCamillo’s life influenced her writing. We used this information to create a scrapbook of her life and its connections to her work. Our next unit of study is “We are the Stories We Tell.” Students will be reading autobiographies/biographies about “memorable” people. The major texts for this unit include autobiographies by Jean Craighead George and Alma Flor Ada. On December 18th, the fourth grade students participated in the annual cinnamon ornament making. The students had great fun making the ornaments and the building smelled amazing!

In Science, students have been learning about geologic forces that occur on Earth. We have learned about tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, and erosion. Students looked at patterns in Earth’s features to help explain where these natural disasters occur most often. We looked at rock layers to be able to identify how Earth’s landscape has changed over time. Our next science unit will start after the winter break and focuses on forms of energy and how energy can be transferred.

Winter fever is in full swing in 5th grade! The students were excited for the first snowfall of the year and they are looking forward to some well-earned time off! The Winter Concert was a big success, and we are so proud of how far the students have come since the beginning of the year. In Blocks 1 and 3 math, we have recently finished up our multiplication unit and are moving into division with a focus on decimals and problem solving. We will also be continuing with our Number Corner and starting with the Bridges curriculum at the end of January. In Block 2 math, we will be finishing up a unit on algebraic concepts and are moving into a unit on integers, rational numbers, and graphing after the first of the year. In Social Studies, students stepped back in time and studied Colonial America and how their economic activities were driven by the natural resources and geographic features of each region. We just switched back to Science, and students are jumping right into our Becoming Banneker Unit. During this unit, students will explore the apparent motion of objects in space and how the patterns can be used to predict events on Earth. In ELA, we started the “Writing Worth Reading” unit this month. The students will be reading novels with the theme of being an individual. Students will also begin writing an original short narrative that has the same theme.

Reminders:

- Even with several warm days sprinkled in, we want to remind everyone that it is important for students to bring a winter jacket to school every day. When the temperature is below 40 degrees, it is mandatory for all students to wear a winter jacket outside. We appreciate your support with this!
- We will be ending 2019 by constructing gingerbread houses during our Holiday Party on Thursday, December 19th and Friday, December 20th.
Primary CALS: Students in room 17 have been working on a weather unit during their group time. They have conducted experiments and completed activities to help them better understand weather patterns. This week they are reading about different traditions and celebrating family and school traditions. Mrs. Bradik’s students have been learning about holiday traditions, dental health, and identifying money. We enjoyed making a Thanksgiving meal for our families and making cinnamon applesauce holiday ornaments with our fourth grade Buddies. Intermediate CALS: Ms. Bossalina’s class had fun dressing up for the Halloween parade, and we shared a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with parents who were very helpful. We continue to work on reading comprehension skills in ELA. In mathematics, we are learning about addition, subtraction, and the names and number of sides of shapes. In science we learned about landforms and made models of the earth’s core out of Playdoh. Ms. Rendulich’s class enjoyed learning about colonial times, comparing today to colonial times, and the American Revolution. We continued to learn about Superflex characters in social skills like Rock Brain, Glassman, and the Space Invader. We had a great time making a meal for American Education Week and want to thank the families who shared it with us. Our fifth grade CALS students also had some extra fun participating in the fifth grade chorus and ballroom dancing.

Kindergarten-second grade completed the gymnastics, climbing, and tumbling units. Next, students took part in the scooter unit and learned how to ride safely. We then combined scooters with our skills of throwing and catching to play Scooter Quidditch. Students have begun the basketball unit and are working on the skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting on baskets.

Looking ahead- When we come back from winter break students will take part in the Movement Education Equipment (MEE), otherwise known as Whittle equipment. The MEE will be in the gym until the end of January and second grade will get to participate in Whittle Night on Thursday, January 30th.

Third-fifth grade completed the Magic Ball Club unit which encompasses a variety of throws and catches. Students progressed through a variety of skills to practice their overhand throwing and catching. Students then used these skills to play a game of Scooter Quidditch. Students are in the process of beginning their basketball unit and will be working on dribbling, bounce and chest passes, as well as shooting on different height baskets. We will also be introducing a new defensive strategy, the zone defense, and using this new concept in our basketball game.

Looking ahead- When we come back from winter break, students will take part in the Movement Education Equipment (MEE), otherwise known as Whittle equipment. The MEE will be in the gym until the end of January and fourth grade will get to participate in Whittle night on Thursday, January 30th.
What Are Students Learning in Library?

**Kindergarten** - Students learned about staying safe online. Now, students are learning about different authors such as Eric Carle, Melanie Watt, Grace Lin, and more.

**Grade 1** – Students learned about staying safe online. Now, students are making connections to the text they read.

**Grade 2** – Students are learning how to use the online catalog, Destiny, to find books that are interesting to them.

**Grade 3** – Students are exploring the aspects of their unique identities by identifying character traits that fit their personalities, sharing goals and achievements, and more.

**Grade 4** – Students are finishing up digital citizenship by discussing copyright laws and having a healthy media balance.

**Grade 5** – Students are applying reading strategies to explore award winning literature (Newbery Award, Coretta Scott King Award, Schneider Family Book Award, and more)

**Book Fair** - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Book Fair. It could not have been done without you! It was a tremendous success!

**Hour of Code** - The week of December 9th-13th, students participated in Hour of Code in the library. Grades 3-5 went to the Code.org website to do their Hour of Code activity, while Grades K-2 coded using Colby (a Code & Go Robot Mouse)

**Follow the Library on Twitter!**
@TimoniumES_lib

Kindergarten has been busy working with patterns to make hot air balloons. We have also been designing our own gingerbread houses! We had fun decorating them with snow and sequins.

First grade has been studying self-portraits. We chose colors that showed what mood we were in and used them to make our portrait collage!

Second grade studied artwork by Henry Rousseau and designed their own jungles! We used our observational drawing skills to draw animals on patterned papers and crayons to add details.

Third grade has begun to study a style of art called Fauvism. This style is known for its bright, eccentric colors. We drew portraits and practiced oil pastel blending in order to add color in the Fauvism style.

Fourth grade is working on printmaking! This is an extensive unit involving radial designs, carving a stamp, and printing their image to show radial balance.

Fifth grade has explored embossing and engraving techniques. We carved designs into tooling foil and used mandalas as our inspiration.
Here is what your students have been working on in Vocal Music:

- **Kindergarten students** are working on identifying melody using so and mi hand signs. They have identified these hand signs in songs and performed patterns on bell sets. Students are also learning about musical form and how to perform in a variety of ways.

- **First grade students** are identifying melody using la, so and mi hand signs. They are identifying songs with these hand signs and creating their own melodic patterns.

- **Second grade students** started a unit on the instruments of the orchestra. They are identifying the four families: strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. They are working to match each instrument picture with its correct name and family.

- **Third grade students** have started the recorder unit and are working hard to master their first “recorder karate” belt. They have learned the notes B, A and G and are working on proper breath support and control to create a clear sound in their recorder.

- **Fourth grade students** have completed their first unit on the ukulele. They have learned the parts of a ukulele and how to produce sound by plucking and strumming. They have learned the C and F chord and are working towards mastering songs.

- **Fifth grade students** have completed their first unit on the ukulele. They have learned the parts of a ukulele and how to produce sound. They have learned the C and F chords and have mastered a few songs.

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**Kindergarten**: Mrs. Taylor’s class has been creating and reading music in different ways through Aleatoric Music and the Barn Yard Orchestra.

**1st Grade**: Ms. Brown’s class has only had a few classes with me in learning cottage 4. So far, we’ve been using games to learn musical skills like listening, singing alone and as an ensemble, and keeping the beat.

**2nd Grade**. Our second graders have been learning about the string family, practicing new rhythms like single eighth notes and sixteenth notes, and learning how to use dynamic markings to communicate emotions in music.

**3rd Grade**: Third graders are masters at tempo and dynamic marking and every 3rd grader was able to give the song “Big Fat Biscuit” a whole new meaning by changing the tempo, dynamics, and lyrics. We’re also getting more comfortable with dotted quarter note.

**4th Grade Exploratory Music**: It’s hard to believe that the string unit is over! Now is a great time to discuss the string family with your 4th grader. If they really enjoyed their time with the violin, they may want to play the bass, cello, viola, or violin next year. Next, we are moving on to the trumpet!

**5th Grade Instrumental Music**: I am so proud of every instrumentalist and how much they have accomplished so far. The winter concert was a success! Now is a good time to make sure that the spring concert is on your calendar for May 19th.
Hello! Your child’s most recent classroom school counseling lesson focused on the topic of Personal Safety. One critical component of this lesson focused on having each student identify the names of at least three adults who they trust. If you haven’t already done so, ask your child which adults they named as trusted adults.

Some important safety tips that you might want to review with your child are:

1. Always stay within eyesight of your trusted adult when you are out.
2. Never answer the door without a grown-up.
3. Don’t speak to people you don’t know unless your trusted adult is with you.
4. Run away from danger; don’t let anyone you don’t know in your personal space.
5. Always be aware of who is in your personal space.
6. Ask your parent and/or guardian for three other trusted adults.

As always, please feel free to contact me at jashton@bcps.org or 410-887-7661. Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

TO SEND OR NOT TO SEND TO SCHOOL

- If your child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, **DO NOT** send him/her to school. They should rest in bed for the day. They **may not** come to school the next day after having a fever because they must be without fever for 24 hours before returning to school. We do not want him/her spreading germs to classmates.

- If your child **vomits the evening before, during the night or the morning of school**, **DO NOT** send him/her to school. Give your child clear liquids and have them rest for the day. Solid foods should gradually be introduced once your child has stopped vomiting. They must remain home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting.

- If you as a parent have decided that your child is too sick to come to school, the child should be in bed. If your child feels well enough to play outside, then they are well enough to come to school. Maryland State Law is very specific- it requires parents to send a child to school every day. Unless there is a serious reason (such as fever or vomiting), please send your child to school. If you are in doubt whether or not to send your child to school, please call Ms. Kurtz, school nurse, at 410-308-1749.

- **Please** remember viruses spread through schools even when teachers are diligent about disinfecting their rooms. If you send a sick child to school, you are just keeping the cycle going. Be respectful of other students and their teachers and keep your children home when they are sick. When the children are in school, we want to provide them with a healthy, safe environment to learn.

  Thank you for your cooperation.
Be A Reading Role Model!

One of the questions that teachers are asked repeatedly is “How can I help my child become a better reader?” While reading to and with your child are useful and important strategies to help your child become a better reader, reading in front of your child is a powerful, yet often overlooked, approach. When children see their parent choosing to read for pleasure, they notice. They start to internalize that reading isn’t just something to do in school but can be enjoyable and something they continue for their entire lives.

Some simple actions to set yourself up as a reading role model include:

- Having text that you enjoy reading in your house (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.).
- Talking about what you are reading. Tell your child what you enjoy (or don’t) about your current read.
- Filling your downtime with reading. Consider bringing reading material with you if you think you might have to wait.
- Establishing a set reading time each day and making it a priority. Your child will notice!

When you show your child that reading isn’t a chore but something to be enjoyed, you are creating a culture of literacy within your home. People who read for pleasure have increased vocabulary and develop important empathy skills. Set your child up for success and be “caught reading!”

For more ideas on being a reading role model, go to https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/be-reading-role-model.html

Are you aware of all the uses for BCPS One (bcpsone.bcps.org)? BCPS One is an online environment with integrated tools and resources for all BCPS students.

Digital Content allows students access to all the databases to which BCPS subscribes. The question mark on the top right corner of each database gives directions or a tutorial to support student use of the database.

Instructional tools will gradually be implemented throughout the years. These are programs students can use to support instruction. Edutyping is used in 3rd through 5th grade to support typing instruction. Microsoft Online allows students to have access to the programs within Microsoft and gives them the ability to access their work at school and at home. Wixie is another program elementary students love to use which allows them to create through art as well as text.

Let your child teach you about the tools within BCPS One!