Principal Ponderings

The second marking period of the school year ended on January 24th, and we are off and running in the second half of the school year. Classroom teachers are continuing to work hard planning engaging and meaningful lessons, and our students are continuing to work hard mastering skills and content.

The months between winter break and spring break provide the longest uninterrupted time for instruction during the school year. Please continue to monitor your children’s attendance, check their homework, review their classroom performance, assist them to study for tests, and reinforce their positive behavior.

BCPS One is available 24/7 for you to monitor your children’s progress in school. The faculty, staff, and administration are working together to ensure that your children progress and grow to reach rigorous goals.

Baltimore County public schools and offices will be open on Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 17th, to make up for the school system’s emergency closure of schools on December 16, 2019. This change was approved by the Maryland State Board of Education, and it is in accordance with the 2019-2020 school calendar and the planned use of emergency closure make-up days.

Each day we model the behaviors we want our students to practice. Courtesy, kindness, perseverance and safety are just a few. When dropping off your child in the morning, please be sure to park in a safe area before your child exits the vehicle. Thank you for keeping everyone safe.

Every year, families are asked to take the BCPS Stakeholder Survey. Last year, BCPS used your responses to shape the budget, staffing, and programs. Timonium staff used your responses to identify specific areas of need and draft key actions for the Timonium School Progress Plan. Once again, we need your voice. The survey only takes about five minutes or less, is anonymous, and is available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members. The survey is available at www.bcps.org until March 1st. Your voice matters!

Standardized testing will soon begin for our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. To minimize the impact to your child’s day and avoid the need to make up a testing session, please insure your child is present and ready to try his or her best on the dates below. Once a testing session begins students are not able to join their class until the session concludes.

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)
   Grade 5 - mornings of March 26, 27, 30, 31

MCAP (formerly PARCC):
   Grade 3 – mornings of May 14, 15, 18, 19 and May 22, 26, 27, 28
   Grade 4 – mornings of May 8, 11, 12, 13 and May 15, 18, 20, 21
   Grade 5 – mornings of May 8, 11, 12, 13 and May 21, 22, 26, 27
Happy New Year! Kindergarten worked on resolutions for the New Year and making promises on how we can help others. We learned about the Chinese New Year and how it is based on the lunar calendar. It is the year of the rat! We have learned the sounds for the letters R, G, and I. We are reading and spelling words with these letters in addition to the letters that have previously been taught.

In math we have begun our unit on 2D and 3D shapes. We continue to utilize Star Writing strategies in order to become better writers. Please continue to provide opportunities at home to write. We have begun working on our weather unit. During our reading and literacy centers block we have been working on our reading strategies in order to better understand our stories and activities.

Good readers ask and answer questions while reading. Don’t forget to listen to your child read each night and practice the words that are sent home. Ask your child what they are “wondering” about while reading. Don’t forget to dress for cold weather! WE LOVE TO PLAY OUTSIDE!

2020 has been a wonderful year so far! We finished our reading unit about folktales. Students continued to work on retelling a story and discussed the lessons we could learn from these stories. Students even had the opportunity to write their own innovation story about a lost object in an original setting. Make sure to ask them all about it. We continue to work on reading and writing words with long vowel sounds and open and closed syllables.

In math all classes finished interpreting and representing data. Mrs. Lander’s and Mrs. Margiotta’s math class will be learning how to read and write time to the hour and half hour using both digital and analog clocks. In Unit 5 Measurement, students will partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares using the words halves, fourths, and quarters. Mrs. Schlissler’s and Ms. Brown’s class have jumped right into the new Bridges curriculum. Students will continue to work on their mastery of key number facts and fact strategies for single-digit addition and subtraction. At the end of this unit, students will focus on developing place-value and solving addition combinations to 20.

First graders are excited to learn all about famous African American’s for Black History Month. All students will be able to research a person and learn all about them. After researching, they will complete a special project! We loved having Justin Berk and the Orioles visit us in the beginning of the month! The Science Center was so much fun. We experienced lots of hands on activities. Our next field trip is coming up soon to Oregon Ridge where we will learn about animals and their habitat. We are excited for what the rest of the month brings.
January was a busy month for our second graders. In ELA, we completed Unit 2 which focused on reading informational text to identify the main topic and supporting details. Students read and learned about several animals and their life cycles before creating a life cycle about an eagle as the culminating project. In addition, we have been focusing on the importance of students self-editing their work for correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. In math, students focused on place value, understanding why numbers are odd or even, and using their problem-solving strategies to answer story problems.

February arrived with warmer temperatures and the groundhog did not see his shadow! Valentine’s Day will be celebrated in second grade on the 14th with class parties and a card exchange.

Winter is still here so please remind your student to dress appropriately. We do go outside at recess unless it is raining, snowing, or too cold. Please remember to sign your child’s planner each night.

In ELA, we are about to begin a new unit: Invention and Innovation – How Solving Problems Leads to New Ideas. In this unit, students will be reading a variety of biographies and informational texts about inventors and their inventions to gain knowledge about the creation, innovation, and continuing development of inventions. We will see the relationship between invention and innovation in this unit. We will determine how problem-solving can lead to new ideas.

In Math, we are starting Unit 3: Multiplication and Division. In this unit, students make connections between division and multiplication. They represent and solve multiplication and division situations by using pictures, words, and number sentences. They apply patterns, structure, and properties of operations to solve real-world problems, including problems involving area.

In Content, we are wrapping up our Social Studies unit, Asia, and we will be starting our Science unit, Safe Racer. In the Safe Racer, students will learn about forces in motion and magnetism. They will use the engineering design process to design, construct, test, and revise model vehicles made of recycled or repurposed materials.

February is an exciting month! We had a lot of parent volunteers come in for Chinese New Year! We had Justin Berk and the Orioles Caravan visit our school! Students always have fun at the Valentine’s Day Party as well! Thank you, parents, for all your continued support at home!
In Math, 4th graders just finished up the Division unit. A majority of students preferred to use the standard algorithm (long division) strategy to divide. I am proud of students for their perseverance this quarter with problem solving and interpreting how a remainder can impact the answer to a story problem. We have started the new Bridges curriculum, and our first unit is Fractions and Decimals. Students are really enjoying working with the manipulatives and working through the problems and investigations.

In Science, we have been learning about different forms of energy and how they transfer. We played with snap circuits in order to create a complete circuit and show multiple forms of energy being transferred in one loop. We will continue to learn about renewable and non-renewable energy sources to learn what is best for our environment. At the end of our unit we will continue to build our trash collecting devices for our Maker Fair projects. We can’t wait to start building again! What a wonderful month we have had in Reading! While we are still wrapping up our concentration on biographies, we have taken a few breaks to celebrate the joys of reading and writing. We had an amazing opportunity to spend time with the author, Twig George, who came and spoke to our students. On the first day, she spoke about growing up in a home of naturalists and writers. Then, on the second day, she conducted a writer’s workshop for the students. Everyone had a wonderful time and a big Thank You to our PTA for the grant that made this possible.

Next, we participated in “World Read Aloud Day,” and one class had Mrs. Miller as a guest reader. The students loved reading to each other!

We have jumped into 2020 with two feet! Although we have had to be careful to avoid puddles, it’ll be spring before we know it! In blocks 1 and 3 math, students have finished up their division unit, focusing on dividing decimals. The next unit will move us into our Bridges curriculum, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions, followed by multiplying and dividing fractions. In block 2, students have finished a unit on rational numbers, algebraic concepts, and the coordinate grid. These students will be moving to a unit focused on ratios and fractions. In Science, during the first weeks back to school we have started our Becoming Banneker science unit with the students designing and creating a user’s manual for a sundial. In ELA, students are reading historical fiction novels and are focusing on analyzing how the character’s perspective influences the way the events of the story are told, as well as, the emerging theme in their novels. On February 7, students partook in their Wax Museum projects. It was awesome to have so much support from home and a wonderful time was had by all.

On March 9, we will have an exciting opportunity to participate in an Interactive Videoconference through COSI (Center for Science and Industry) thanks to a grant from our PTA! Students will be able to interact with a scientist from COSI in order to learn how different mechanical toys function and learn the engineering behind them! Even with several warm days in the past few weeks, 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 jacket outside. We appreciate your support with this!
Ms. Henry: We have worked hard in January learning about the different seasons and beginning to explore forces and motion. We continue to work on building sets and solving addition problems, as well as, identifying text features and reading comprehension.

Mrs. Bradik: We enjoyed visiting Season’s Pizza in the month of January while focusing on ordering food, manners and appropriate restaurant behavior, as well as, paying for our meals. In class, we have been working on identifying and counting money, identifying sight words, and exploring winter wonders!

Ms. Bossalina: In January and February we continued to practice finding and circling new vocabulary every Monday and continue to re-visit how to make an addition sentence with various addends and then find the sum.

Ms. Rendulich’s classroom read historical fiction texts in ELA. We learned about our planet’s sphere and the water cycle in science. We enjoyed learning how to solve math problems in the community at the Dollar Tree and fractions at Season’s Pizza. We practiced writing a letter to mail at the Post Office!

Students enjoyed the whittle equipment, an indoor jungle gym, during the month of January. This year’s theme was Avengers. Students tested their climbing, muscular strength, and endurance skills to prepare for the challenges an Avenger must face. Fourth and fifth grade students used the whittle equipment in conjunction with the schools “Breakout” equipment to participate in an Avengers themed breakout. The students had to unlock the hidden clues and mysteries to unlock their team’s box and help uncover a secret message.

Family Whittle Night was a success! We enjoyed ‘hanging’ around with our second and fourth graders! What a great turnout!
What Are Students Learning in Library?

**Kindergarten** - Students continued to learn about different authors such as Mo Willems, Matt de la Pena, Kevin Henkes and more. We will begin to explore strategies that good readers have when reading fiction books.

**Grade 1** – Students learned about tangrams and are creating a story to go with a tangram animal they made.

**Grade 2** – Students are applying reading strategies to explore award winning literature (Caldecott Award, Black Eyed Susan Award, and more).

**Grade 3** – Students are beginning to research severe weather and how people can stay safe during that weather (pictured).

**Grade 4** - Students are applying reading strategies to explore award winning literature (Silbert Award, Pura Belpre Award and more).

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

Follow the Library on Twitter! @TimoniumES_lib

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Kindergarten celebrated Black History Month by making artwork inspired by Alma Thomas’ dashed line painting style.

First grade studied unity and artwork by Louise Nevelson. We used recycled materials to create a sculpture of different sizes and textures, then painted them all one color to show unity.

Second grade has been exploring clay by making pinch pot monsters!

Third graders are starting radial weaving. We learned weaving techniques such as warp and weft, as well as, different purposes these weavings may have.

Fourth grade is beginning their clay totem unit. Students will choose symbols that represent what is important to them, sculpt them from clay, and choose a unifying characteristic to link them all together.

Fifth grade has been studying the art element VALUE. This means they have mixed tints and shades in order to paint a landscape depicting a change in value.
Here is what your students have been working on in Vocal Music:

- **Kindergarten students** are working on performing steady beat at different tempos—fast, medium, and slow. Students are also identifying rhythm symbols in music, ta which has one sound and ti-ti which has two sounds.
- **First grade students** have started to learn the songs and dance moves to “Jukebox Time Machine”. They have been working hard preparing; we can’t wait to share it with you at the end of March!
- **Second grade students** started a unit on rhythms and rests. Earlier in the year we learned the half note and the half rest. This quarter we are focusing on the dotted half note, whole note and whole rest.
- **Third grade students** are on their third belt in the recorder karate program, the orange belt! Students are fine tuning their fingering and sound of B, A, and G and preparing themselves for the lower notes on the recorder.
- **Fourth grade students** are working on a group project where they are creating an original introduction and coda to the folk song “Lil Liza Jane”. Students are using xylophones, metallophones and unpitched percussion as they prepare to share with the class.
- **Fifth grade students** are working on a blues unit as they prepare to write their own original blues song. Students are learning about blues musicians and composers and how they used the 12 bar blues scale to create a piece.

**Kindergarten:** Quarter 2, we connected music with visual arts and reading by making our own drawings like the ones in “Niko Draws a Feeling,” to demonstrate what we felt while listening to contrasting music. This quarter, I say hello to Ms. Doyle’s class!

**1st Grade:** 1st grade has been using our new hand drums to do drum circle activities! This quarter, I say hello to Ms. Schlissler’s class!

**2nd Grade:** Our second graders are learning about the brass and rondo form by moving and singing along to the Mozart Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat major and composing our own songs in rondo form.

**3rd Grade:** Our 3rd graders are getting comfortable with sixteenth notes and performing the song “Chick Hanka” with different instruments. We’re also learning more about the parts of a piece of music, like time signatures, measures, and double bar lines.

**4th Grade Exploratory Music:** Our 4th grade instrumentalists have transformed seamlessly from string players to brass players. We’ve been practicing healthy breaths, high and low sound on the mouthpiece, and tonguing, as well as, identifying the 4 characteristics of a brass instrument. Ask your fourth grader if they can remember all 4.
Greetings! Last month we focused on developing character traits necessary to be a successful student. Kindergarten and first grade students learned about whole body listening skills. Second grade discussed personal space skills and how to avoid being a space invader. Third grade students shared how they plan to have a positive impact on others. Fourth grade discussed the impact of gossip and rumors, and how to handle different types of situations related to this topic. Fifth graders discussed what it takes to build a positive reputation. For the month of February, classroom lessons will focus on celebrating differences. As always, please feel free to contact me at jashton@bcps.org or 410-887-7661.

From The Health Suite

Do you know how important dental health is to our children?

Children who have poor tooth brushing habits, snack frequently on sugary foods and drinks, and have family members with untreated cavities are at highest risk for developing cavities.

All children enrolled in school are REQUIRED to have a dental form on file in the health suite. I have found that this is not the case for most of our students here at Timonium.

Please go to our school website and click on link for the health suite. You will find a link to click to download the dental form. Please take this to your child’s dentist, have them fill out and return it to the health suite as soon as possible.

Thank you for keeping our kids healthy! If you are not sure if your child has one in their health file please give Ms. Teresa a call at 410-308-1749 and she will let you know.
Timonium’s Top Ten Reasons Why You and Your Child Should Visit Your Local Library

1. When children walk into a library and see the thousands upon thousands of books, it reinforces that this reading thing is a BIG deal!
2. Your local library has activities and programs that are free for the whole family!
3. Borrowing library books is inexpensive! Take those savings and go out for ice cream!
4. The most critical skill for academic success—and success later in life—is the ability to read well.
5. Research shows students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas and have greater content knowledge than those who do not.
6. There are so MANY books! Your child may stumble upon a topic/book/series/genre that they never knew existed! And if they’re stuck and not sure what’s out there, ask a children’s librarian. They know and can help.
7. The more you read, the stronger your reading skills become! What’s not to like about that?
8. The amount of free-choice reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency and general information. Let’s get reading more!
9. When children make genuine choices about their reading materials, it increases the likelihood they engage more in reading. Really!
10. What are you waiting for? Get over to your local library today!

Enjoy this special time with your child! And remember, it’s EASY on your wallet! 😊

The outdoor classroom is almost complete! We have had many volunteers along the way to help make this vision come to light. A special thank you to a former TES student, Davey Huber for making this classroom part of his Eagle Scout project. Another big thank you to the PTA teacher grant opportunities, four picnic tables made from recycled material have been purchased for the school to use. We look forward to having a ceremony in the spring when we can truly enjoy weather.