

# LIL' MOUNTAINEER NEWSLETTER

Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary School

December 2019 / January 2020



## WINTER FUN AT HOME!

- Practice writing your **sight words** in shaving cream
- **Read** under a cozy blanket with a stuffed animal
- Read a **recipe** and practice those **measuring** skills!
- Write a **thank you card** for someone you care about
- **Make** paper snowflakes
- Make homemade **decorations** from items around your house
- **Write** about what you hope to **accomplish** in 2020
- **Design** a tower out of gumdrops and toothpicks
- Practice old **Spelling** words in your agenda
- Write words in the **snow**

## Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 1 & 2 - no school (Thanksgiving break)
- Dec. 12 - scheduled 2-hour delay (professional development)
- Dec. 20 - 1:00pm early dismissal
- Dec. 23 - snow make-up day #1
- Dec. 24 to Jan 2 - no school (Winter break)
- Jan. 3 - snow make-up day #2
- Jan. 20 - no school (Act 80 Day)

## What's Happening at BBSD!

- Dec. 5 & 6 - PTSO Christmas Bazaar (see note below)
- Dec. 10 - K & 1st grade Bingo for Books (in school) AND K-2 pictures with Santa
- Dec. 12 - 2nd through 4th grade Bingo for Books (in school)
- Dec. 16 - 2nd grade Field Trip
- Dec. 18 - K-2 movie in the auditorium; 3-4 'Drive-in' Movie
- Dec. 19 @ 7:30pm - 3th & 4th grade Music Concert
- Jan. 21 - PTSO Muffins for Mom

## PTSO

The PTSO Craft Bazaar will be Thursday, December 5, and Friday, December 6. The Bazaar is open to the public on Thursday 3:30 - 8pm, with a food booth 4-7pm. There is a scheduled parent meeting on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00pm. K-2 Students will have pictures with Santa December 10, in the morning, and K-1 Bingo for Books in the afternoon. Grades 2, 3, and 4 will have Bingo for Books on December 12.

# What's Going On in Your Grade?

## Baby, It's Cold Outside! A Note From Kindergarten

As you bundle up for colder weather, this is a great time to practice zipping. Those bulky jackets take extra patience and often extra thumbs! As you leave the house, leave an extra minute or two so that your kindergartener can practice zipping his/her own coat.

Flip-flop season is over! It is also a good time to practice tying shoes. During this time of year, many kids are putting on and taking off boots and shoes frequently. This allows many additional opportunities to practice tying.

Kindergarten still visits the playground for recess (as we are able) during these cold months. We go out if the ground is relatively dry and if the real feel temperature is at least 40°F. With this in mind, please make sure your child has proper attire for outdoor play, including a warm jacket, hat, and gloves.

## 1st Grade is Solid!

First grade is excited for the holiday season! We will be filling our afternoons with many seasonal learning activities. Some of which include informational texts, creative writings, and holiday crafts. When we return from Christmas break, we will begin our second science unit. This unit will focus on solids and liquids. The learners will participate in numerous explorations to discover characteristics and properties of various types of matter.

## Things are Heating Up in 2nd grade!

We will be doing a gingerbread theme for the week before Christmas where we will actually bake and decorate gingerbread cookies! Second grade is also looking forward to their Carnegie Museum Field Trip on December 16 to enjoy a fun and exciting day with many hands-on experiences!

In January, we will be learning all about weather in Science! Things will calm down a bit as students start the new year off with a new unit in each subject.

## We're Shakin' & Makin' in 3rd!

We are turning on our creative juices in third grade! Makerspace Mondays are a real hit! The Makerspace is a room filled with donated materials that we use to build, create, and design many seasonal and curriculum connected projects. Students are given a task that they must complete according to given criteria. This is a place where problem solving and cooperative learning go hand in hand. Designs grow from conception, to imagining, designing, and construction, resulting in a final concrete item. Makerspace Monday is a fun way to achieve STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) goals! Thank you to all who support the Makerspace through donations. A special thank you goes out to The BBSD Foundation for their constant support of our learners!

## 4th Grade Roasting by an Open Fire

In ELA, fourth graders have a few special days coming up before Christmas. One of those days we will be doing a cozy self-selected reading day by our "virtual fireplace." Starting in January, we will be doing a unit on immigrants and Ellis Island. We will be reading *If Your Name Was Changed on Ellis Island*. Each student will be creating a "matchbox diary" and we will take a virtual tour of Ellis Island. This unit gives students a chance to share a bit about how immigration has affected their families.