



Lil' Mountaineer News

You can view our elementary newsletter by visiting our website www.bbsd.com

December 2018



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

Kindergarten is very busy creating fun and festive crafts to use to decorate their classrooms & hallway. They are also busy writing their Writer's Celebration stories. These students are using all of their writing skills to complete a short story. The kindergarteners will be ready for their Writer's Celebration on December 18th at 6:30 PM! Hope to see you there!



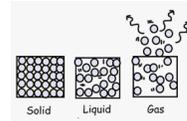
What Are You Thankful For...

First graders have been learning about the first Thanksgiving and how this holiday began. We've read about the Pilgrims, their journey on the Mayflower, and how they survived with the help from Native American friends. Learners have been doing hands-on and creative activities to share the things for which they are thankful. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we are so thankful for our first grade friends.



'Tis the Season of JOY

Second grade is preparing for all the excitement that comes in December. They are "decking the halls" with crafts & writing pieces to spread holiday cheer. Gingerbread men will be the theme right before holiday break. Second grade students will be mixing, baking, and decorating their very own gingerbread men with Mrs. Diehl's Family and Consumer Science students. Second grade will also be taking a trip to the Natural History Museum in Pittsburgh. This exciting trip was awarded to the students through a scholarship.



What is it?

Third graders are learning the different properties of all three states of matter. Students are busy investigating and identifying the states through exciting activities and experiments. Third graders will also be observing chemical and physical changes. Ask a third grader about the properties of solids, liquids, and gases!



Why Did They Leave?

Fourth graders will begin their ELA integrated social studies unit learning about the immigration movement into America through Ellis Island in the 1880s. Students will read If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island and then conclude with the story The Matchbox Diary. They will then visit the Elementary Makerspace to engage in a culminating activity. This is an exciting unit for students to learn more about American history!

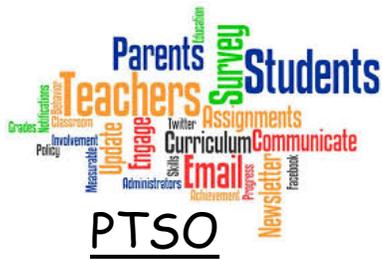


In the Studio

The K-4 art classes will be working on a broad range of different media. Kindergarten has just finished a practice lesson with plasticine clay. The students practiced the "coil" method and were introduced to the pottery art of the Zuni Indian tribe of the southwest.

Second grade has been learning "landscape", and were taught how to create depth in a drawing by using "vanishing point" and "horizon line". They were then introduced to blending with colored pencils, making the foreground darker and lightening up the color as the picture travels back. The artist for the day was John Constable, my favorite American Landscape artist.

The 3rd and 4th grades have been working hard on "etching". We talked about wood and metal etching, and the processes involved in creating multiple reproductions of the same image (printmaking). The students created a more primitive type etching using scratch paper. Our key terms for the etching lesson were: crosshatching, details, stylus, subtractive method and texture. The famous artist we used for this lesson was Rembrandt Van Rijn.



Comprehensive Planning Process

The Berlin Brothersvalley School District is in the third cycle of Comprehensive Planning (CP). The first CP for Berlin was developed for July 2013 - June 2016. It was revised for the period of July 2016 - June 2019. The revision process occurs during the last year of the current plan which for Berlin is this year. We had our first meeting on November 7, 2018 with a committee which includes approximately 30 teachers, administrators, parents, business leaders and community members. Our goal is to update the current plan and design a "roadmap" that will guide our district through July 2019 - June 2022!

- Dr. David Reeder, Superintendent

The PTSO Craft Bazaar will be held in the Elementary Gym on Thursday, December 6th 8:30 - 3:00 (students only), and 3:30 - 8 (open to the public). There will be a food booth Thursday, 3:30 - 7:00. The last day of the Craft Bazaar will be Friday, December 7th, 8:30 - 3:00.

Santa will be visiting the Elementary K-2 students on December 11. Your child is welcome to wear festive, holiday colors and clothing for the pictures.

The PTSO will have a parent meeting December 12, at 6:30, in the Elementary Library.

Thank you for your Square One Art orders! This fundraiser benefits our elementary art program. Start saving Box Tops for a Box Top War to be held in January!

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for upcoming events in December:

12/06-07 PTSO Craft Bazaar
12/07 3rd and 4th Grades' Music Concert
12/11 Santa pictures with K-2
12/13 2-hour Delay
12/18 Kindergarten Writer's Celebration
12/21 Early Dismissal
12/22-01/02 Winter Break (no school)

Next Month:
01/01-02 NO School
01/21 ACT 80 Day

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

In 2018, the PA General Assembly passed Act 44 mandating the establishment and use of the "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) Anonymous Reporting System by every Pennsylvania school entity by Jan. 14, 2019.

S2SS is a life-saving and life-changing school safety program that teaches students, educators and administrators how (1) to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others and (2) to anonymously report this information through the S2SS app, website or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline.

Berlin Brothersvalley School District has formed its team of 5 members that will receive, view and act upon tips. These members will be alerted via phone call, email and text for life safety tips and email and text for non-life safety tips. This 5 member BBSD team will be trained to view and act on tips at a regional training in December 2018.

- Mr. Keith Hay, BBSD Safety and Security Coordinator, S2SS Team Leader