From the Engineer’s Desk

Paula Webster

On behalf of the students and staff at Bainbridge Elementary School we continue to graciously thank each of you for your support. November was a busy month! Families and community members joined us for our Veteran’s Day Celebration, the P.T.O. sponsored Movie Night, and the first marking period awards assemblies. Our students partnered and collected food for those in need and our school participated in the Coats for Kids Campaign. We plan to keep the good times rolling during the month of December. Please review our newsletter for many great events that are planned for the month of December. Two items in particular to pay attention to:

- Please be sure to review the last page in our newsletter, which outlines our safety protocol for gaining entry to the building and other key items pertaining to school safety. Please be sure to review this and share this information with your families.

- Our teachers are sponsoring the first ever “BRAIN TRAIN”! Teachers will be offering their time to in both mornings and afternoons! Be sure to check out the information form that was sent home with students.

A Huge Welcome to Amanda Gorr, Family Involvement Advisor!!!

Ms. Gorr has her Masters in School Counseling from Marywood University in Scranton, PA. She has recently moved here from the small town of Calicoon, NY and currently lives in Elkton. She is very excited to be the new FIA and cannot wait to get started on all of our amazing events! Please feel free to stop by and visit her. She will consistently be here on Wednesday’s 9:00-3:45 and Friday’s from 8:00-3:00, with her 3rd day being based on school events. She would like to thank everyone for their warm and welcoming wishes which has made the whole process much easier!!

Thank you for your continued support of Bainbridge Elementary School! We hope that you take the time this month to make memories with your school, families, and friends. Happy Holidays!
Happy December! Our Veterans Day Assembly in November was a success! Thank you to all who had a hand in making this a special celebration for our Bainbridge heroes who have served. It was such a touching day, I am proud to be an American! As the holiday season arrives, encourage your students to look for ways to go out of their way to help someone. This may be to help them carry something, to compliment them or even to include someone in an activity. Students and families can model kindness in everything they do! I challenge you all, during the month of December to go out of your way at least one time each day! It is obvious that our students are making great strides, check out the decrease in our discipline data. Way to go!

Students are following our Bainbridge BEs: BEing Respectful, BEing Responsible, and BEing Safe. To be in the Green Zone, students must have no office referrals and no more than 1 MIR (Minor Incident Report) per marking period. Keep up the great work! Each month, we purposefully plan interventions for our students exhibiting yellow and red zone behaviors. We are beginning to see the positive impact these deliberate interventions have for our students. Winter has arrived, enjoy the festive season and have a wonderful holiday.
A Parent Meeting to review the Personal Safety Curriculum will be held on Tuesday, January 5th at 9:15am in the cafeteria. Mrs. Gough will be teaching classroom guidance lessons about personal safety in January and February. Parents of children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to attend this meeting. A letter will be coming home where you will be given the opportunity to let Mrs. Gough know if you are planning to attend the meeting.

Character Education: The Character Education Trait of the month for December is Caring. We demonstrate this trait when we are being thoughtful and kind toward others. Please take an opportunity during this month to discuss what caring means with your child.

We are very grateful for the incredible generosity of our families during our Turkey Trot. Our students collected more than 1,461 non-perishable items! These items have been donated to Nicanor, a non-profit organization that helps provide free meals all over Cecil County and runs the Agape program, which directly supports students in our school. Our Coat Drive has also ended. Thank you so much for all of your support!

Below is a list of November Students of the Month for the character trait of Caring.

- Mrs. Romberger/PKam: Jazzlyn Scott
- Mrs. Romberger/PKpm: Kira Morgan
- Miss Luckman: Kara Copeland
- Miss Murphy: Eric Keiner
- Mrs. Rovine: Raelyn Burlin
- Mrs. Strong: Sydney Millard
- Mrs. Amoss: Jaedyn Russell
- Mrs. Juno: Hunter Martin
- Mrs. LaRoue: Nicholas Vitak
- Miss Parry: Ryan Engelberth
- Ms. Bannon: Dominic Ferrigno
- Mrs. Bright: Olivia Sexton
- Mrs. Knecz: Alex Turnbull
- Mrs. Obenchain: Audree Hall
- Mrs. Holmes: Julianna Reffit
- Ms. Kocsis: Caitlyn Mitchell
- Mrs. Mazza: Madeline Cox
- Miss York: Michael Orsini
- Ms. Ernst: Madelyn Adams
- Mrs. Page: Samia Walter-Rose
- Mrs. Sickels: Samuel Taylor
- Mrs. Dyson: Michael Phillips
- Mrs. Edgecomb: Gabriella Diaz
- Mrs. Nickle: Morgan Pierce
- Mrs. Triantafillos: Kylee Mitchell

Winter Health Tips:

- If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds, try using a cold air humidifier in the child’s room at night. Saline nose drops or petrolatum.
- Cold weather does not cause colds or flu. But the viruses that cause colds and flu tend to be more common in the winter, when children are in school and are in closer contact with each other. Frequent hand washing and teaching your child to sneeze or cough into the bend of her elbow may help reduce the spread of colds and flu.
- Children 6 months of age and up should get the influenza vaccine to reduce their risk of catching the flu. It’s not too late to get the vaccine! Around 80% of all influenza illness generally occurs in January, February, and March.

Nurse, Jen Day
Pre-K

We have been very busy in Pre-K. We have learned twenty authentic Native American/Indian symbols. We learned what they mean and how we “write” them. It is so awesome to hear the children read the symbols! Once we had practiced writing the symbols, we made headdresses decorating them with the symbols. Wearing our headdresses, we then painted the symbols on big brown paper. We then transformed the “big brown paper” into a teepee for our classroom. It stands from the floor to the ceiling and two children are allowed to go in at a time.

I like to use the Native American/Indian symbols to introduce reading. Not only can the children read the symbols, they can understand the connection that letters are symbols too! They can understand that when different letters are put together, different words are made.

Our first trimester progress report will be going home on Friday, December 4. I am planning on sending skill sheets along to see what skills your child has mastered and what skills need to be worked on. Please remember that each skill has to be assessed individually for each child. I started this time consuming process at the beginning of September and continued assessing until last week.

We are planning a month of discussing trees, clothes, and Holidays! Have a great Holiday break!

Kindergarten

Season’s Greetings! We hope you had a great Thanksgiving with your families! There has been a lot of fun happening in kindergarten, and over the next few months we will be having even more fun! We have been able to work with our 5th Grade Buddies to complete lots of fun projects, make sure you ask your kiddos about what they get to do with their Buddies! This month we are going to have a really neat visit from Fair Hill Nature Center. They are going to come and teach us about what happens to different animals when the season changes from Fall to Winter. This program is always a big hit! A few reminders from us to you! Please make sure that your child has a weather appropriate change of clothes that they can keep in their lockers in case of any accidents. Just as important, please, please, please make sure to send your child with a jacket to school every single day.

The weather is getting colder and many of our kiddos do not have a jacket to wear outside for recess. We will be going outside for recess every single day, weather permitting, and as the weather gets colder your child will need a jacket, gloves/mittens, scarf, and hat. We don’t want any of our kiddos to catch a cold! Also, we are still having daily snack time. Please remember to send your child to school every single day with a healthy snack and drink that they can enjoy during our snack time. We would like to thank you all for your help with getting the weekly homework packets done. As the year progresses; it is important to encourage your child to complete their homework as independently as possible. The skills we send home for homework are skills we work on throughout the week in school, so students should be able to complete them on their own. They will need directions read to them, and may need some help with certain problems, but please encourage them to complete as much of their homework as independently as possible. Also, make sure they are practicing writing their first and last names as well as numbers 1-20. Thank you so much for all of your help at home! As always, please contact your child’s teacher with any questions you may have! We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

1st Grade

First grade cannot believe that December is already here! We have many exciting things coming this month!

First graders will be ‘traveling’ around the world. Within the numerous countries we visit, we will be studying their Winter Holiday cultures and celebrations! We will compare how each country celebrates, compared to our own winter cultural celebrations. Each first grade classroom will become “experts” on one particular culture’s celebration; Italy, Germany, Australia, and Mexico!

Before we begin our winter break, first grade will perform an Around the World Holiday Show!! Parents will be invited to come watch us present and sing songs that originate from our ‘expert’ country.

Please be on the lookout for flyers regarding information on the DATE and TIME of our show. In addition, follow up information will be sent home asking for yummy snack and drink donations to enjoy at the show!
2nd Grade

December, already? It is amazing to the second grade team that we are already writing this newsletter! This month is one of the most exciting months of the year for most of our kids. This is also the month that we have more days out of school. Please use this time to bond with your child and to continue to help our children in their learning. There are a lot of fun ways that we can teach our kids the skills that they need to acquire and master. We can read to our kids or share stories with each other. We can use numbers and measurements when we prepare the ingredients to cook our favorite meals. We can encourage our kids to write at home by keeping a journal. The best way to teach our children is by example. Please continue to nurture and sharpen their brains in order to be ready when they come back to school after winter break.

During the month of December, we will continue to study many exciting skills. In Language Arts, we will continue to become better readers using both literary (fiction) texts, and informational (non-fiction) texts. Also, we will continue to develop our writing skills by writing good sentences, and using correct grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Our writing focus for the second marking period is opinion writing. Please encourage your child to read for 15 minutes each night (even over our winter break). Don’t forget that Raz-Kids, an online reading program, is available to your child to login to at home.

In Math, we will continue to learn new strategies to add and subtract, measure, and solve multi-step word problems. To help your child at home, practice basic addition and subtraction facts. Our goal is for your child to become fluent with their basic math facts.

In Social Studies we will continue to learn about communities through maps and geographic features. This includes identifying the purpose of maps/globes, identifying and using the map elements, labeling human made features, classifying regions, and describing how geographic characteristics determine human choices. In Science we will continue to learn about matter. This includes the properties of matter, how matter can change with physical and chemical changes, and how each piece of matter has a different purpose.

Again, please make sure your child completes their homework every night. Remind your child that it is his or her responsibility to take their homework, assignment book, take home folder, and mail home with them every day. It is also their responsibility to turn in any papers from their folders to their teacher.

Finally, with the weather changing please make sure your children have coats, hats, gloves/mittens, etc. If you do not have these items available please let Susie Gough, our school counselor, know and she will do what she can to help. We appreciate and thank you for your continued support in all your endeavors to ensure your child’s academic success. Happy Holidays!

3rd Grade

December already?! Where does the time go? We continue to work very hard as we close out 2015. Our 3rd grade mathematicians are becoming experts in multiplying. Students have been using arrays and other visual representations to help them learn their multiplication facts. They have also discovered the relationship between multiplication and area. The next relationship they will be discovering is that of multiplication and division.

We continue to learn about the Amish. We have been reading many different informational books and articles to help us learn all about their way of life. We will now move into literary texts that also share how the Amish live. The students find this way of life fascinating since it is so different from our own. Ask them about it!

Our science unit this marking period is very hands on. We learned about technology and engineering. Now we are reading about optical engineers and the Engineering Design Process. After reading we will be working through many hands on activities to help us learn more about light and giving the students a chance to experience the work of an optical engineer. How exciting!

We will keep you posted on our upcoming activities in 2016. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.
4th Grade

In the month of December we will be switching gears in Math and focusing on division and then fractions. Those multiplication facts are still so important, so please encourage your students to be practicing them at home.

We have begun looking at Colonial Maryland and the conflicts that arose between the colonists and the British. Our current Science unit gives students the opportunity to investigate how we take in information through our senses and then respond to our environment.

In ELA we continue to work on text features and focus in on how authors interact with a reader. We are working hard to improve the students’ writing; varying sentence structure and supporting an idea with reasons and evidence. Also, students will be honing their research skills. We wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season.

5th Grade

We are halfway through the 2nd marking period, and the students have put forth a lot of effort. We are proud of all their hard work!

In Math, we will be continuing our 2nd unit entitled Numbers and Operations in Base Ten. The students will be engaged in various activities to gain a deeper understanding of multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals. These activities will help the students explore various strategies that can be used for these types of computation. Students will be expected to apply this new knowledge to real world problem-solving situations.

We will continue reading various stories in both whole group and guided reading that deal with how two or more things (people, ideas, systems, etc.) rely on each other. This correlates with our macro-concept in Reading of “Interdependence”. We will focus on such skills as making connections through comparing and contrasting, analyzing multiple main ideas, and using key points to summarize text.

In Social Studies, we will continue working on our next unit in which we are discussing the colonization of America. This unit involves the study of the challenges the settlers faced starting new colonies in the New World. In Science we are currently working on the unit Structures and Properties of Matter. The focus of this unit is on how different substances interact to form mixtures or solutions and how we can separate these different combinations. We will also have another opportunity to work with the instructors from North Bay coming to Bainbridge to help us learn more about environmental sciences. More information about our lessons with North Bay will be coming home soon.

Finally, we want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!!

Look ahead

Nov. 30 Holiday Workshop: LaRoue, Kmecz, Nickle and Juno
Dec. 1 Holiday Workshop: Dyson, Triantafillos, Romberger AM/PM, Ernst, Howard
Dec. 1 Interims Issued
Dec. 2 Holiday Workshop: Obenchain, Luckman, Murphy, Sickels, Kocsis, Rovine, Mazza
Dec. 2 Fall Picture Make Up Day
Dec. 3 Holiday Workshop: Strong, Edgecomb, Page Bright, York, Holmes, Bannon, Parry
Dec. 1 Interim Reports Issued to Students
Dec. 4 Gr. 2, 3, and 4 Dental Screenings 9am – 11am
Dec. 4 Pre K Report Card Distribution
Dec. 7 Gr. 2, 3, and 4 Dental Hygienist 9am – 12pm
Dec. 7-8 A Winter’s Tale- classroom – Gr. KG
Dec. 8 Mark Lohr – Assembly for K - 5
Dec. 8 PTO Meeting 4:00 PM
Dec. 8 Subworks Night 4-8PM
Dec. 9 Caroling PVHS to visit Bainbridge
Dec. 9 Gr. 2,3,and 4 Dental Hygienist 9am – 1pm
Dec. 14 Raising a Reader - Pre K 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Dec. 15 Winter Concert / 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Dec. 16 Jingle Bell Tour /2:30pm – 4:00pm
Dec. 18 PBIS Movie & Interventions
Dec. 21- Jan. 3 Winter Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Jan. 4 Regular Classes Resume SCHOOL OPENS
Student Safety at Bainbridge Elementary School

Student safety is a top priority at Bainbridge Elementary School. For this reason, our CERT Team (Crisis Emergency Response Team) has established procedures to ensure that our students and staff are safe every day. Administration, staff, and families must work together so our students are safe at all times. Below, we have identified things we all can do to ensure student safety:

- **School administration** must ensure that staff, families, and students are well-educated and clear regarding the school’s responsibilities in the area of student safety. Administration must assess all safety processes and procedures on a daily basis to be sure that we are using the best procedures and that they are being followed.
- **Staff** must be thoroughly familiar with their roles and responsibilities regarding student safety and teach all safety processes and procedures to students.
- **Families** must be aware of safety processes and procedures at BES and review those procedures with their children and family members to ensure that they are confident in the area of school safety and know what to do to be safe at school and during their commute to and from school. Families must also abide by processes and procedures to help ensure student safety.

We wanted to share a few additional facts with you regarding how we maintain safety at BES:

- **All doors are locked** at all times here at Bainbridge during school hours. To gain entry all visitors will use the buzzer and be greeted by our front office staff. The office will ask visitors their purpose for being here before allowing entry to our building. Visitors may be asked to provide photo identification. Please be sure to update your child’s emergency list, as this is used to cross reference our visitors.
- Please **remove all hats, glasses, and hoods** and **speak clearly** so you can be heard.
- All visitors must **sign in** at the main office immediately upon entry to the building and sign out before they leave. If you are not on the emergency contact list and we have not received communication from parents/guardians of your visit, you will be denied access to our school.
- When **large groups** of visitors come to our school (awards, family engagement breakfasts, etc.), please be patient as we will utilize our daily process during these events as well.
- **Please do not hold doors for others so that proper security procedures can be enforced.** We thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our children safe. Please be patient as our office staff is vigilantly working to identify all visitors.
- We have regular drills and our students and staff are aware of their responsibilities during each drill.

Needless to say, we all have a very important job as it relates to maintaining student safety. Please know that our school has a team of people (CERT Team) who assess and plan for student safety on a consistent basis and that we all must **work together** to be sure that our children are safe at all times.

Speaking of safety, we wish you a most safe and joyous holiday season! Be sure to make memories with your families!