

The Dolphin's Tale

Travilah Elementary School
 13801 Dufief Mill Road
 NORTH POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20878

School Telephone: 240-740-4300
 School Fax Number: 240-740-4298
 School Hours: 9:25 am to 3:50 pm



January 2020

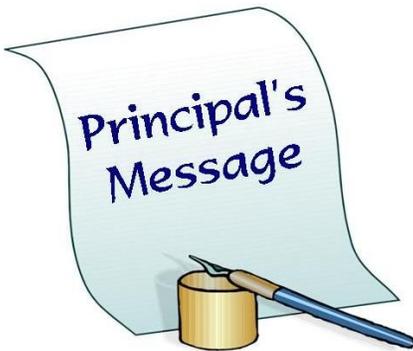
Principal: Dr. Karin Wade
PTA President: Mr. Bryan Greenwald
PTA Vice President(s):
 Mrs. Dilini Abeywarna & Mrs. Robyn Bender

Travilah links:

[PTA Website](#)

[Travilah school website](#)

[Twitter: @TravilahES](#)



Dear Travilah Families,

Happy New Year and Many Thanks: We would like to wish all of our community a very happy new year! The Travilah staff is appreciative of your generosity during the holiday season and always. Thank you for all you do each and every day to support us as people and to ensure the success of our instructional program. We are looking forward with eagerness and anticipation to all that this new year has instore for the Travilah Elementary School community.

Warmly,

Karin Wade, Ed.D

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ January 16-5th Grade Parent Meeting at Frost
6:30PM-7:30PM
- ❖ **January 20 Holiday-Offices and schools closed**
- ❖ January 23-Lunar New Year Celebration
- ❖ **January 24 Early Release at 1:20PM**
- ❖ **January 27 Professional Day no school for students**

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

MCPS INFORMATION

2020–2021 School Year Calendar

The Board of Education has adopted the school year calendar for the 2020–2021 school year. The traditional school year will begin on Monday, August 31, 2020, and the last day is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The calendar includes 182 days of instruction; a 10-day spring break; closures for planning and professional development; and an operational closure in September. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2020-21.aspx to see the calendar for all closures and early release days.

The calendar was developed to comply with closings required by state law, guidance from the state superintendent of schools regarding emergency make-up days, and early release days that are contractually required by the Montgomery County Education Association. The Board also adopted an Innovative School Year for Arcola and Roscoe R. Nix elementary schools. School will begin on Monday, July 6, 2020, for these schools.

REMINDER: United We Learn Contest

The deadline is fast approaching for the fourth year of the United We Learn student contest. This year's Innovative Communication Challenge encourages students to think about how communication affects their daily lives and how technology can be used to enhance communication. Middle and high school students are challenged to conceptualize an Amazon Alexa Skill (or series of skills) that shares information of importance about the school district, addresses communication barriers, strengthens the home-school connection and positively impacts the MCPS community. Alexa Skills use voice to access and share information. Elementary school students are challenged to design a webpage that shares information of importance about their school, addresses communication barriers, strengthens the home-school connection, and positively impacts the MCPS community.

The contest will take place in two phases, with the winning proposals moving on to the second phase. Second-phase participants will have the opportunity for hands-on learning as the Alexa skills and webpages are developed. MCPS will publish the winning Alexa Skill(s). Winning webpage(s) will be published to the students' schools' websites.

Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20. To learn more about the contest, visit montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

Be Safe, Be Seen Campaign Emphasizes Pedestrian Safety

MCPS is joining safety and transportation officials throughout the region to encourage everyone to exercise caution as they go to and from schools, especially during the darker hours early in the morning and in the early evening. The district has launched a Be Safe, Be Seen campaign and created Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to raise awareness around pedestrian safety. Shorter daylight hours in fall and winter typically lead to a spike in crashes involving pedestrians. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2015, 74 percent of pedestrian fatalities nationwide occurred during the dark, dusk-till-dawn hours, with one in four occurring between the hours of 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Other pedestrian safety resources include: MCPS Safe Routes to Schools, a program that works to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school, and BeStreetSmart.net, a public safety campaign of Metro, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.



SPECIALISTS & DEPARTMENT MONTHLY UPDATES

ART

Heather Ovenshire Weaver

In Kindergarten students investigated the painting "The Starry Night" by Vincent Van Gogh. Using finger paint, collage, and painting students created their own starry night scene.

MUSIC

Moukdahanh Southivong-Chorus, General Music

Jennifer Bryan-Instrumental Music

Happy New Year and welcome back from winter break! In Kindergarten students will continue to explore their voices

Students explored the art elements of space and texture in the assemblage of their collage as well as the art principle of movement in their sky.

First grade students are preparing to create a winter landscape. The sky will show a monochromatic value scale going from light to dark. The details of their winter scene will be created with just black in order to show silhouette shadows. Second grade students are creating snowmen communities.

After reading the story Snowmen at Night students were challenged to create their own snowman world. Their picture is created using only oil pastel on dark blue paper and shows highlights, shadows, and variety.

Third grade students are creating snow globe stories. Using mixed media students created a winter story of their choice. This could be the story of their favorite winter holiday or winter animals.

Fourth grade color wheel nebulas are out of this world! Students completed an in-depth color theory study of the color wheel. They now understand the relationships of colors to one another and can share about the primary, secondary and tertiary colors. They finished up the unit with a color wheel challenge creating all the colors directly from red, yellow and blue.

Fifth grade clay boxes are in the process of drying out to enter the kiln. This is known as the bone dry stage. As the boxes finish firing in the kiln they will no longer be clay but ceramic, known as the bisqueware stage. In the beginning of the new year students will transform their boxes once more into glazeware using colorful glassy colors to finish their boxes.

and steady beat on instruments. They will also continue working on reading long and short patterns as well as high and low patterns using picture icons.

First Grade students will explore the various instruments that we have in the classroom and will also work on keeping a steady beat on the instruments. Students will continue to work on reading rhythms and so-mi patterns in class.

Second Grade students will continue to work on playing accompaniments to songs using the xylophone. They will also continue to work on reading the note "do" on the staff.

Third Grade students have been working hard to learn the notes on the treble clef. They will continue to read and play songs on the xylophone in preparation for the recorder.

Information for the recorder will be sent out in mid-January. Please be on the lookout for this.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Tim O'Connor & Katie Desbrow

Happy New Year! We are jumping right into the Kid's Heart Challenge during the month of January. This is a school-wide fundraiser, formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart, that allows our students the opportunity to raise money for the American Heart Association. This year we will only be accepting donations online. Students will be receiving information regarding the entire event during this first week of January. The culminating event will be taking place during PE classes the week of February 3-7. Feel free to email or call Mr. O'Connor with any questions regarding the event.

During regularly scheduled PE classes, we will be rounding out the 2nd Marking Period. K-1 students will be focusing on the effects that exercise has on their heart, lungs and skin and why those things are important to fitness. 2nd grade students will also focus on the effects of exercise as well as continuing to work on throwing and catching skills. 3-5 students will shift their focus to volleyball skills such as the forearm and overhead pass as well as the underhand serve. Along with those skill concepts, students in these grades will be diving into goal setting as it pertains to personal physical activity and its importance in staying motivated to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

ESOL

Robyn Goldman

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and restful break! ACCESS for ELL/WIDA Standardized testing will begin January 8 and will conclude February 11. Make-up testing will be

MEDIA

Jill Simkanich & Kris Sellman

Here is a friendly reminder about our reading incentive program: Travilah Scholar Reading Program Celebrating Diversity. The purpose of this program is to encourage a love of reading in our students. In this fourth year of our scholar reading program, we are highlighting books that celebrate diversity, many of which received the Coretta Scott King Award or the Pura Belpre Award. Here, in the Travilah Media Center, we have gathered nearly 300 books for this year's scholar reading program. Participation in the program is optional, but it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore literature in a way that they may not otherwise do so. We have many students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade participating so far. It's not too late to sign up. Please request a permission form from the Media Center staff and we will be happy to prepare a folder for you.

In other news, we have some exciting data to share. So far this school year, we have circulated 10,556 books to staff and students. The top grade levels are third grade with 2,125 books, second grade with 2,022 books, and first grade with 1,255 books.

Counseling

Karen Prestoy-Heyn

All students have received Personal Body Safety lessons as well as one review lesson. In January I will begin meeting with all

conducted February 12-26. During this time, your child who is an ESOL student will be tested in all four domains: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The testing will take place on either a computer or chrome book depending upon their grade. I will be working with our test coordinator and staff to ensure a smooth testing environment and that all testing is completed in a timely manner. There is nothing your child needs to do to prepare for this test. I will review the details of this test with your child after winter break to ensure they understand and know what to expect. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

grade levels for regular discussions/lessons on a variety of topics. Topics discussed include: academic skills, making and keeping friends, active listening and communication skills, identifying and expanding comfortable and uncomfortable feeling word vocabulary, problem solving, handling strong emotions, the world of work, and the use of career interest assessments.

In regards to community service, we will continue to collect new or gently used winter coats, hats, and gloves for Summit Hall Elementary School throughout the month of January. A collection box for donations is located in the foyer outside the front office.

GRADE LEVEL MONTHLY UPDATES

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Erin Gilbert , Allison Pecoraro – Team Leader, Shira Tassiello

Happy new year! It's a new year at Travilah! We hope you all had a relaxing and fun holiday break. Coming back to school can be a hard transition after having so many days off. It is helpful to discuss with your children that it is important to remember to follow the school rules.

During the month of January we will be completing our winter reading testing. The information gathered from this test will help small group reading instruction. Reading groups will resume once the testing is done.

In reading we are starting Unit 4 titled Writers Tell Many Stories. We will practice retelling strategies by asking and answering questions about key details. We are also using strategies learned in reading group to help identify unknown words in a text. We will also focus on specific vocabulary by identifying adjectives and making real life connections when we acquire new vocabulary words.

This month in math students are working on counting by tens to 100. We will be comparing numbers and identifying one more and one less. We will also begin to represent numbers using different arrangements. This includes decomposing numbers up to ten into two parts. In whole group as a class we will be modeling addition and subtraction word problems by acting them out and using other visual representations.

This month in writing we are continuing to work on narrative writing in which students are writing about familiar people, places, and things in their lives. We are also working together on shared writing pieces as a class to write using complete sentences.

FIRST GRADE TEAM

Bonnie Foley, Tiffany Rivera – Team Leader

Happy New Year!! We hope you enjoyed the family time together and are so happy to welcome the first graders back from break! We have many fun things planned for this month, and cannot wait to share them with all of the students. The I-Can winners for the month of December were, Camille, Zara, and Nick in Mrs. Foley's class, and Nihaya, Sophie, and Abby in Ms. Rivera's class.

In math, we will continue to use a variety of problem solving strategies to solve increasingly complex word problems. Towards the end of the month we will even be working on problems that require us to add 3 numbers in order to find an unknown and answer a question.

This month brings Unit 4 of our Benchmark Advance curriculum. Our essential question for this unit is, "How do people create stories?" Students will read and compare selections with different types of characters and settings to understand how authors create stories. We will be making inferences as we read, and use words and phrases that appeal to the senses to help us understand the text. Our phonics learning will focus on consonant digraphs: *th, sh, ng, th, sh, wh*, and three-letter blends: *scr, spl, spr, squ, str*. The cumulative writing project for this unit will be to write our own narratives in which we teach a lesson like in the folktales we will be reading.

In science we will use the information gained through our explorations before break with light and sound to create a device to send a message, we know our scientists are going to be so creative and come up with some awesome devices!

Globe Trot Scott sent us 4 packages before break, and we learned a lot about the culture and holidays in India, Sweden, Israel, and Germany. We know a few more packages will be coming this month, and we are excited to see the culture squares the students bring in to represent their culture. Remember, the squares are due no later than January 10th! We will be putting them together to make a class culture quilt, to help us identify similarities and differences in our culture, and ways people meet basic human needs. We will also explore how things have changed or stayed the same from the past to the present.

We know 2020 is going to be a great year in 1st grade!

SECOND GRADE TEAM

Debbie Facine– Team Leader, Karen Jarczynski, Sue Potts

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the winter break! Hopefully your child shared with you about how much fun we had building our gingerbread houses!

We are working on Unit 4 in our Benchmark Curriculum, “Many Characters, Many Points of View.” We will be reading several tales, legends, poems, and realistic fiction stories and looking at the point of view of characters. Stories can change depending on who is telling it! We will be comparing the points of view of different characters and also identify how a character’s point of view can change throughout a story.

In math, we are continuing to add and subtract numbers within 100. We will be using our strategies to count money. We will use coins and bills to add and subtract money within 100 and skip count by 5s.

In social studies, we will continue to work on map skills. The children will learn about geographical features of the United States. In science, we are continuing our focus of learning on how Earth events can occur quickly or slowly (earthquakes, erosion, and eruptions). Students will explore landforms and bodies of water by engaging in a virtual field trip.

Many of our friends are still in need of new school supplies, especially glue sticks and pencils. Please ask your child if they have run out of these materials or any other supplies. Thank you for your help!!

THIRD GRADE TEAM

Kerry Bowman – Team Leader, Susan Chidakel, Brooke Perel

We would like to wish everyone a happy new year! It’s amazing that we have already completed half of the school year. We are confident that this year will bring lots of success for our students! Students really enjoyed Unit 3 in our Benchmark Literacy program, entitled “Animal Adaptations”. Students read a variety of informational articles for the main idea and key details. Students also accessed print and video resources to research an animal adaptation in order to write an informative report. In Unit 4, students will be focusing on point of view as we read a variety of plays and traditional stories.

Third graders are working towards fluency of their multiplication facts this year. In order to meet this goal, we will begin weekly “Race Track” math fact tasks. Students will work to complete 30 problems in one minute. Students will begin with the ones table and work at their own pace through each times table. Students are reminded to practice their multiplication facts every night for at least 10 minutes to increase fluency. We will be graphing our progress for the remainder of the year as we work toward this goal! In science, students continue to explore extreme weather. In social studies studies are studying geographic characteristics and in health they are looking at uniqueness and growth mindset.

Please check in with your child about replenishing school supplies. He/she may need paper, pencils, colored pencils, glue sticks, etc. In addition, as the year progresses, some students have displayed a need for a new binder. Supplies are necessary to help your child stay organized and prepared. If you need help with supplies, please contact your child’s teacher. Thank you for your continued support!

FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Carol Knoblach, Amber Shafer– Team Leader, Sudha Singal

Happy New Year! We hope all of our students and families had a wonderful holiday and relaxing winter break! Marking Period 2 is racing by in a flurry and we are excited for all of the new learning and experiences that will occur in 2020.

We will begin the new year with Unit 4 of our Benchmark Advance curriculum. Students are really getting acquainted with the routine and pattern of lessons with our new curriculum. The challenging and complex texts spark great discussion and analysis. In this next unit, our essential question is, “What do we learn when we look at the world through the eyes of others?” We will be analyzing different points of view, ideas, and opinions through a variety of genres. Be sure to check your child’s take-home folder for the Unit 3 consumable with the calendar of suggested activities to review and practice reading skills at home.

In social studies, fourth graders are learning about European exploration between the years of 1400-1600. They will be investigating each country’s motive, the brave explorers they

FIFTH GRADE TEAM

Jodi Hart – Team Leader, Megan Herman, Ashley White

Hello 5th Grade Families! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! We appreciate all of the support you provide your student during the school year to aid learning here at school. The end of the second marking period will be at the end of this month and here is what we will be learning throughout the month of January:

Reading: Students will be reading literature texts (Unit 4) involving poetry and other texts through different perspectives to answer the question: How can other perspectives help us evaluate the world? The students will annotate key details and use context clues. They will also examine vowel team syllable patterns for foundational skills.

Writing: Students will write an opinion piece about their opinion of two poems that have been read during the reading section for Unit 4.

Math 5: Students will be continuing to work on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators . Also, students will

financed and sent, the journey hardships, and expedition results. We will also learn about how the Native American societies interacted with the new colonists.

In science we are beginning unit 3 and exploring the essential question, "what happens when objects collide?" Students are told they are on a team of engineers working on the world's fastest bumper car. While the car is functional as a racer - it has not yet been tested as an actual bumper car. Students will start by making a diagram of an initial design for a bumper car, then design a rubber band car using a defined set of criteria and constraints. They will build a prototype to help them explore how cars move and what happens when they collide.

In Math 4 classes, students are learning about conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit. Students will apply this knowledge to solve word problems involving intervals of time, weight or mass, and money. In Math 4/5 classes students will be learning about geometry concepts and measurements. Students will be identifying geometric features such as points, lines, line segments, parallel and perpendicular lines, as well as determining angle measurements of two-dimensional figures.

Students are continuing to brainstorm, plan, and design their culminating project for Think Big Cafe program. In January we will have a presentation from the SERT Recycling Manager and team on recycling and repurposing materials. This will help give students additional ideas on what materials and items can be repurposed into a visually appealing, sound producing project.

January presents an opportunity for mid-year testing through MAP-M, MAP-R, and Benchmark. Please remind your child to get a good night's rest and have a nutritious breakfast every morning before school so they are alert and focused! Please continue to check your child's assignment book and binder for any teacher notes, graded assignments, or fliers/school reminders. This continues to be an effective and strong organizational tool for your student and is also used as a way to keep you up to date and informed. Thank you for your commitment to your child's learning and success!

begin multiplying fractions by a whole number, and reasoning about products of a fraction and another fraction.

Math 5/6: Students will consolidate the work of earlier grades on operations with whole numbers and decimals by becoming fluent in the four operations on these numbers. Students will also use their knowledge of equivalent fractions to fluently multiply and divide multi-digit decimals using the standard algorithm.

Science: Students will continue to engage in the practices of scientists and engineers through electromagnetic waves. They will use wave models to show how waves are transmitted over long distances. Including designing a communication device and planning a satellite mission.

Social Studies: Students will continue to discuss certain aspects of the Constitution including the Preamble and the Bill of Rights. Also, they will discuss civic participation and compromises in the national government today.

Since we are approaching the halfway point of the school year, please check-in with your child to see what supplies may need to be replenished or replaced so they can continue to have a successful school year!

....ATTENTION... ATTENTION....

Robert Frost Middle School is cordially inviting Travilah parents to a Fifth Grade Parent Orientation on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at Robert Frost M.S. Gymnasium.

The orientation will start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the snow date is scheduled for January 23, 2020. Be on the lookout for the flyer that will be coming home on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.



January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3 <i>School Spirit Fridays!</i> <i>Wear Travilah Blue or Spirit Wear</i>
6 Kids Heart Challenge	7 Kids Heart Challenge	8 Kids Heart Challenge	9 Kids Heart Challenge	10 Kids Heart Challenge Frost Instrumental Music Visits Travilah 2:45PM <i>School Spirit Fridays!</i> <i>Wear Travilah Blue or Spirit Wear</i>
13	14	15	16 5th Grade Parent Meeting at Frost 6:30PM-7:30PM	17 <i>School Spirit Fridays!</i> <i>Wear Travilah Blue or Spirit Wear</i>
20 Holiday-Offices and schools closed	21	22 Hearing & Vision Rescreening	23 Lunar New Year Celebration	24 Early Release at 1:20PM Flyer Distribution Day <i>School Spirit Fridays!</i> <i>Wear Travilah Blue or Spirit Wear</i>
27 Professional Day no school for students	28	29 Spelling Bee 2:00PM-3:30PM	30	31 Club Photo Day <i>School Spirit Fridays!</i> <i>Wear Travilah Blue or Spirit Wear</i>

Travilah Elementary School



Outstanding Staff 2019-2020

PRINCIPAL

Karin Wade

MAIN OFFICE

Patricia Hairston - Admin Secretary
Karen Foecking - Attendance Secretary

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Erin Gilbert
Allison Pecoraro – Team Leader
Shira Tassiello

FIRST GRADE TEAM

Bonnie Foley
Tiffany Rivera – Team Leader

SECOND GRADE TEAM

Debbie Facine– Team Leader
Karen Jarczynski
Sue Potts

THIRD GRADE TEAM

Kerry Bowman – Team Leader
Susan Chidakel
Brooke Perel

FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Carol Knoblach
Amber Shafer– Team Leader
Sudha Singal

FIFTH GRADE TEAM

Jodi Hart – Team Leader
Megan Herman
Ashley White

READING INITIATIVE

Leighann O'Connor

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Jodi Rubenstein

READING SPECIALIST

Courtney Hept

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Karen Prestoy-Heyn

RESOURCE TEACHERS

Kelly Ham
Rinese Dixon

SPEECH TEACHER

Anne Evans

ESOL TEACHER

Robyn Goldman

SPECIALISTS TEAM

Jennifer Bryan – Instrumental Music Teacher
Tim O'Connor – P.E.
Kathryn Desbrow-P.E.
Heather Weaver – Art Teacher
Moukdahanh Southivong – Music Teacher

SUPPORT STAFF TEAM

Sarah Barrett
Maria Clothier
Lisa Meringoff
Nasrin Rouhanian
Nina Al-Attas (Seibert)
Barbara Smith

MEDIA TEAM

Jill Simkanich – Media Specialist
Kris Sellman – Media Assistant

BUILDING SERVICES TEAM

Francis Davis – Manager
Chaunte Short – Building Service Assistant Manager
Ted Rollins – Building Service
Okhee Go-Building Services
Jorge Sanchez-Building Services

HEALTH ROOM

Ani Jarian – Health Tech
Jennifer Jones – Nurse

CAFETERIA

Lily Ye – Manager

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Michael Hyman