

REECEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
248 REECEVILLE ROAD  
COATESVILLE, PA 19320  
MRS. CATHERINE VAN VOOREN,  
PRINCIPAL  
PHONE: 610-383-3785

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## SCHOOL CALENDER

### December

- 3 PTA Mtg. - 7 PM
- 3-5 Holiday Secret Shop
- 9 Report Cards Issued
- 9 PTA School Store
- 10 Early Dismissal - 11:40 AM
- 11 Winter Concert - 9:30 AM/7 PM
- 12 PTA School Store
- 19 Holiday Class Parties  
PJ Day
- 22 to Jan. 2 No School

### January

- 5 Return to School
- 7 PTA Mtg - 7 PM
- 8 Science Fair
- 15 Family Roller Skating Night  
5:00 to 7:00 PM
- 16 Early Dismissal - 11:40 AM
- 17 Applebee's Pancake Breakfast  
8:00 to 10:00 AM
- 19 No School  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day of Service
- 31 District Science Fair

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### \*\*\*\* ATTENDANCE REMINDER \*\*\*\*

*All vacations, family travel plans or family days that require a student to be absent from school, **MUST BE PRE-APPROVED** by Mrs. Van Vooren, Principal. Please send in notes for pre-approval at least a week prior to absences.*



### DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

With the colder weather here, parents are reminded to make sure that their children are dressed warmly enough for outdoor recess. With the exception of inclement weather and extremely cold temperatures, the students will continue to go outside for recess throughout the winter months. This outside activity provide the children with a much needed opportunity to “run off some steam” thereby setting the tone for their afternoon learning sessions. In order for a student to remain inside during recess, a written note indicating such must be secured from a doctor. Please label your child’s personal clothing items such as coat, hat, gloves and scarves.

## **FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

Students who participate in field trips **MUST** submit all required fees, permissions, Medical information and have proof of health insurance prior to the day of the trip.

Student Accident Insurance may be purchased through a plan offered by the Coatesville Area School District. The forms can be found on the CASD website.

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## **MONEY**



If you send money in with your child, please make sure you put it in an envelope with the student's name on it, what it is for and the teacher's name.

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## **PARENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND UPDATED INFORMATION**

*The district operates an automated communication system which conveys important messages to our school community. To receive these important messages, it is imperative that we have your current telephone numbers.*

*If any of your contact information has changed, please send a note to update this information as soon as possible.*

*If there has been an address change for your family, a Change of Address form must be completed in the office accompanied by proof of address (such as a copy of a lease/deed and electric bill and utility bill).*

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### Counselor's Corner

During the holiday season, it is easy to get lost in a long "To Do List" that often comes with this time of year. Many of us are busy decorating our houses, cooking and baking, or in the middle of the shopping madness. Take a moment to think back on your memories from your childhood holidays. Most likely, it is not the material things that you recall but rather the people with whom you celebrated or the traditions that your family established. This holiday season, I encourage you to make a memory with your family in a simple way. It is easy to focus on all the things that we do for others rather than making time to be with them. A perfectly decorated home does not make a perfect holiday if the people in it are frustrated from exhaustion.

Try to simplify your holiday traditions this year. Instead of staying up all night to bake 12 different kinds of cookies, pick one or two favorites and bake them as a family. Every present doesn't have to be wrapped perfectly. Instead, have a family wrapping party and have your kids help you. Don't worry if you don't get everything done. Try to prioritize. Ask yourself, "If I don't do this, what will happen?" Keeping traditions simple does not mean you are cheating your family. I hope that everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season!

Kathy Doherty  
School Counselor

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### SPIRIT DAY

The last Friday of every month has been declared "Spirit Day" by CASD. The theme for December 19<sup>th</sup> will be pajama day!

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The Reeceville Faculty and Staff would like to take this opportunity to extend holiday greetings to all of the families of Reeceville School. May your holiday season be filled with peace and joy. We wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year, and look forward to welcoming all of students back to Reeceville on Monday, January 5, 2015!

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

November flew by because we were so busy in Kindergarten! We finished reading and sharing stories about “Friends at School” and began the new theme “On the Farm” in Language Arts and Kids Writing. In Math, we learned to write, identify and count to the number 10 (including 0).

We worked hard practicing for our annual Thanksgiving Program and Feast. Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Finkbohner’s classes were the Pilgrims and Mrs. Puma and Mrs. Valentine’s classes were Indians. The children performed several poems and songs for family and friends, and surprised everyone with the idea of “pizza” instead of “turkey” for Thanksgiving! We are very thankful to everyone who donated food for our feast (it was a great “harvest”) and to those who set up the tables and cleaned up afterwards. THANK YOU!

We are excited for the month of December. Our hallways will soon be decorated with the holiday trees that the children will make at home as a family project. Make sure to take a walk through the primary hall during the holiday season.

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## FIRST GRADE NEWS

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers would like to thank all family members for supporting the November Parent-Teacher conferences and the Father’s Breakfast. We always need the support of family members to help our students achieve their best potential. Speaking of best potential...please remember to help your student study their spelling words each week and write their spelling sentences. Also, always look in their folders even if they do not have homework. Ask your child about their day and look at the work they did in school that day. Don’t forget to read together every night!

Report cards will be sent home before holiday break. Remember this is a “snapshot” view of how your child did with the skills for the first trimester. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

Now that the children are wearing heavier coats, please check to see if your child is able to zip, button or buckle his/her coat. First graders should also be able to tie their shoes. Thank you for helping your child practice these skills. Remember the wind blows cold up here on the hill, so hats and gloves are a must!

Our Homeroom Helpers are planning a holiday party for December 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information to come home soon. Enjoy the holiday season!

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## SECOND GRADE NEWS

Reeceville's second graders have been busy learning new skills in all curriculum areas, as well as practicing the skills that were learned previously. In math, we are currently learning how to build, read, write, compare, and order numbers to 1000. Children will continue to take the timed fact tests monthly to build up their speed. Practicing facts at home will surely help to increase their score. Ask your child if they have been the "Player of the Day" for First in Math yet. This is a computer program that we use to practice everyday math skills (all students have their own account and can use it at home).

In Language Arts, the students are working hard to learn about Author's purpose and asking questions while reading. In the month of December we will be digging into lots of fun and exciting fiction and non-fiction stories. We will also be working on reading with expression and phrasing. Please make sure your child is reading at home for a minimum of twenty minutes per night. We cannot stress enough how important this is!

All of the children are looking forward to the Holiday parties that will be held in each classroom on December 19th. Look for details coming home about this shortly. Thanks so much to the parents who signed up to help out with not only this one, but all of our classroom events!

One last reminder, our students still go outdoors for recess everyday, as long as it doesn't rain. Please be sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. It does get windy on the playground. The second grade team thanks you for your continued support.

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## THIRD GRADE NEWS

**It seems hard to believe that the first trimester is over and we are 1/3 of the way through the school year. Visitors walking through the halls in November have seen our classes busy working on problem solving and adding and subtracting with regrouping in Math; doing investigations involving the water cycle in Science, and learning about fact/opinion, reference sources and main idea and details in Reading. We also learned about and wrote our own haiku, which is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. We were busy!**

**The month of December will seem even busier. While gearing up for the holidays, we will continue to develop our academic skills. We will soon be moving onto our Social Studies unit on landforms as one of our new areas of study, and in Math we will be working on skills involving addition and subtracting larger numbers, as well as working on the skills for the PSSA.**

**We will hold our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Spelling Bee in early December. The top three spellers from third grade will be representing us at the CASD Spelling in January.**

While the upcoming winter break is a long one, please don't let time go to waste academically. Have your children continue to work on and practice their math and reading skills while at home. They can access First in Math, as well as other web sites, to practice their math skills, and daily reading should be encouraged. We look forward to students returning to school in January ready for the remainder of their third grade school year.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and teachers at Reeceville wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

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## **FOURTH GRADE NEWS**

Thank you for urging our students to read and take the Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes. Approximately 95% of the fourth grade level books in our school and community libraries are part of this great program the PTA provided us. Our storytime adventures continue with "Firestorms" and "The Stranger" as we continue to work on understanding what we are reading to include all the supporting details. Our robust vocabulary continues to build as words such as: reluctant, resounded, impressed, cease, and unique fill our thoughts. Don't forget about our historic fiction book reports. It has been quite challenging finding just the right book.

Our challenge in math is to perfect our math facts in order to conquer addition, subtraction, multiplication and division concepts. We are also working on time, data, graphing, and fractional measurements, geometry is just around the corner. We also have a First in Math Family link available. Please take a few moments to show that mathematics is important, while you have fun together. Just log in at <http://www.mobymax.com/signin> with your child's user ID/password.

In Social Studies, we continue to learn about the many facets concerning our great state of Pennsylvania. We are also excited about beginning our science module on Human Body. It has been great fun exploring Earth Materials.

A highlight for 4<sup>th</sup> grade is our opportunity to be a part of the Reeceville School chorus. We have been practicing very hard and are ready for our holiday concert. We hope you can join us on December 11<sup>th</sup> to help us ring in the holidays here at Reeceville. It should be a memorable time for all.

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## ***FIFTH GRADE NEWS***

Spelling is a hot topic in fifth grade during December. Students are anxiously competing in homeroom spelling bee rounds to earn a spot as a homeroom representative in the school spelling bee. The fifth grade school spelling bee will take place in the gym on Friday, December 12, two school representatives and an alternate will advance to the district spelling bee.

Fifth graders are also enthusiastic about studying electricity in science class. They are studying the structure of an atom, kinds of electricity, conductors and insulators. Students will also construct series and parallel circuits. All of this background information will prepare them for using the PECO Smart Energy Saver Program later in the semester.

The PECO Smart Energy Saver Program is a hands-on program designed to teach students about electricity, water, and natural gas. Each student will receive a home kit with energy- and water-saving devices. Students and their parents will work through a series of experiments and activities after installing the devices. At school, students will learn about renewable energy efficiency, energy conservation, on-peak time, and load shifting in order to use energy more efficiently and save money on utility bills. It is an interesting, rewarding experience for students, teachers, and parents.

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## **FROM THE CAFETERIA**

Our new website is [casdk12.org](http://casdk12.org). Applications are available on line.

All money must be brought to the cafeteria in the morning in an envelope marked with the student's name, teacher's name and phone number. Anyone who has a balance, needs to pay it as soon as possible.

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