Unit News

Unit A  Remember, Thursday, September 20 from 6:00-7:30 is the Unit A Curriculum night. Parents will have opportunities to hear about literacy and math in Unit A as well as have a time to hear from your child’s homeroom teacher. This is an evening for adults only.

Please look for the Unit A Party volunteer note coming home in today’s Friday Folders.

Unit B  Just a reminder that next Tuesday is Picture Day! Unit B will have their pictures taken after Specials.

Unit C  Students are continuing to learn about iPad etiquette and safety through their lessons in the Media Center and with the Unit C teachers in the classroom. It would be great if you continued these conversations at home in regards to any devices that are being used at home.

Principal’s Pen...

Each year, Columbia Public Schools sends a climate and culture survey to parents, staff, and students in grades 5, 8, and 11. Typically, the survey window is late fall. This school year, I have asked to do that same survey and two shortened surveys to compare parent responses over time. Next week, you will receive a link to a survey with eight questions. This shortened survey should take approximately five minutes to complete. Then, later this fall, you also will receive the CPS survey. We will send the shortened survey one more time during the second half of the school year. Please complete the surveys, we appreciate your feedback!

Important

Picture Day is Tuesday morning, September 18!

Individual pictures and the fifth grade class photo will be taken!

Individual picture order envelopes were sent home last week. You may send payment in the envelope to school or pay online, according to the envelope directions.

Fifth grade parents: the order forms for the fifth grade picture will be sent home in the Spring! We hope all fifth graders are here on Picture Day!
Counselor’s Connection
Beth Ryberg, School Counselor

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! My name is Beth Ryberg, and I am thrilled to be a part of Ridgeway Elementary! This is my 7th year as a School Counselor and 4th year at Ridgeway. I look forward to working with students and families this year. Over the years, my experience includes working as part time private practice counselor, a counselor for teens in residential rehabilitation where I received my License for Professional Counseling, preschool teacher, children’s librarian and with students with special needs. My husband Steve and I have been married for 27 years and we have 3 daughters.

I will wear many hats at Ridgeway Elementary, and here are some of the ones you may see:

**Classes**- I will teach in all classrooms at least twice a month this year. We will focus on personal safety, emotional regulation, bully prevention, cooperation, diversity, coping, self-concept, growth mindset, empathy, and careers. Our first lessons have focused on kindness and getting to know ourselves and each other. Our next lessons include The Ways To Stay Safe: The 3 R’s: Recognize (Is it safe?), Refuse (Say words that mean, no.) and Report (Tell an adult you trust).

**Individual/group counseling**- I provide individual and group counseling for students. The focus in counseling can include: social/emotional, academic, and/or career development needs. Some topics for groups may include resiliency groups, which include, focusing on strengths, coping skills, processing grief in a healthy way, anger management, stress management, social skills, academic skills, attention concerns, or self-confidence and self control. Signed parental consent is required for individual or group counseling. If you believe that your child would benefit from individual or group counseling, please let me know.

**Minute Meetings**- I will briefly meet with students individually to get to know everyone in our school.

**System Support**- In our school, I help coordinate the 504 plans, NNAT3 Testing, assemblies, Kindness Week, student support team, Partners in Education, Advisory School Committee and MAP testing. I collect data on student progress to determine the effectiveness of interventions as well.

Counseling is an integral part of the total educational program. My goal is to assist and support your child in reaching his or her full potential—emotionally, socially, and academically. As a parent/guardian, you play the most important role in your child’s success! If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to consult with me, please feel free to contact me at 214-3550, Ext. 59003 or eryberg@cpsk12.org. I am looking forward to partnering with you for your child’s success.

Have a wonderful 2018-19 school year!

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**Looking ahead to School Events ~ please mark your calendars!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Picture Day! School pictures and fifth-grade photo will be taken!</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Unit A Curriculum Night, 6:00 -7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>No School, Teacher Collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Munch and Read 2:00-2:30, Unit A Families are welcome to attend!</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Parent Advisory Council 6:00, PTSA 6:30, Media Center</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
<td>Ridgeway One Read Kick Off</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Early dismissal 12:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Unit Fall Parties, times to be determined and will be posted in the RAP.</td>
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