Unit A

Unit A is looking forward to celebrating Holidays Around the World during the month of December. Be sure to ask your student about the traditions we are learning about.

Munch and Read is Friday, December 7. We look forward to this reading celebration.

Unit C

It is time to start getting ready for the holidays. Unit C's traditional holiday celebration involves visiting area daycares. On Monday, December 17, Unit C will walk to Nora Stewart Day Care and Park Avenue Day Care. We will leave Ridgeway at 9:15 and return to school by 11:45. Unit C students will read books and work puzzles with the preschoolers. Each preschooler will receive a decorated sack of treats.

Families can participate by donating new or like-new books and puzzles (no stuffed animals, please) that are in good condition and appropriate for preschoolers. This is an excellent opportunity to free up space in your home! Gifts need not be wrapped—this is an activity we do at school. Cash donations are welcome and will be spent on purchasing bags and treats for the children. Please make checks payable to Ridgeway PTSA.

Thank you for supporting our school through the Scholastic Book Fair; we had a great turn out! Mrs. Dempsey’s classes had the highest percent attendance at the book fair, so they received extra books for their classroom! Congratulations to Sydney Q., Jane, Ryleigh R., Connor E., and Lila who won the book-basket drawings.

Principal’s Pen...

This November has been a surprise with winter weather. Usually, at the end of November, I write about the possibility of late-start days. Not only have we already had one but a snow day too!

We use the following guidelines for outside recess. These are guidelines only and not meant to be a substitute for professional judgment.

Above 15 degrees: outside recess

10-15 degrees: Students will go outside for 15 minutes.

Below 10 degrees: inside recess

**Temperatures include temperature/wind chill

Thinking about winter weather and recess brings me to the topic of the week – Boots! Our procedure generally is that students wearing boots may play in the snow.

However . . . HOWEVER . . .

Earlier this month, we had one or two days with very wet snow and a temperature close to 32 degrees, so the snow was wet and melting quickly. On those days, we asked students with cloth boots to stay out of the snow so that their feet would stay dry for the rest of the school day.

Early this week, the blacktop portion of our playground was a sheet of ice, and the temperature at recess time was a balmy 11 degrees with wind chill. We allowed students with insulated boots to play in the snow in two sections of the grass in front of the school while other students stayed inside.

We use our professional judgment to make the best decisions in each unique situation.
Reading to Pets!

The best way to become a better reader is to practice reading! One fun way to do this is to read to a pet. Pets make a great audience because they can’t correct mistakes or judge reading ability. They just sit and enjoy (or squirm and enjoy depending on the pet!) This environment of no-pressure reading may help students take chances in their reading and build confidence, plus it’s fun! I have seen firsthand this year how many students love to read to Luna, our resident guinea pig in the Media Center. If you don’t have a pet at home, a great winter activity may be taking a trip to the Columbia Humane Society. They have a program where students can sign up to read to a pet! For more information on this program you can visit their website: https://www.cmhspets.org/volunteer-and-foster/reading-to-pets/

For more information on the benefits of reading to pets you can also check out this interesting article: https://www.readbrightly.com/the-many-benefits-of-reading-with-animals/

Ridgeway Choir News....

The Ridgeway Choir will perform its Winter Concert next Tuesday, December 4, at 6:30 PM in the Ridgeway gym. All Ridgeway families are invited to attend. Choir members should wear a Choir t-shirt and be in the music room ready to sing promptly at 6:15 PM. The last choir practice for this semester will be Tuesday morning, December 4 at 7:20 AM.

Autonomous School Committee opening

There is an open position on the Ridgeway Autonomous School Committee. The position may be filled by any member of the Ridgeway community except a current staff member, parent, former student, partner in education, etc. The board meets at least four times a year with a general membership meeting annually. Please email Shari Lawson (slawson@cpsk12.org) if you are interested. Our next meeting is December 12 at 4:00.

ABCD Day Calendar

Monday, December 3... D Day
Tuesday, December 4 ... A Day
Wednesday, December 5 ... B Day
Thursday, December 6 ..... C Day
Friday, December 7 .... D Day

Dates for your calendar: You are welcome to attend Ridgeway’s next Autonomous School Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 12, at 4:00 in the media center. There is not a PTSA meeting in December. The next PAC and PTSA meetings are January 8, 2019, at 6:00 (PAC) and 6:30 (PTSA).

Looking ahead to School Events ~ please mark your calendars!

- **December 4**: Winter choir Performance 6:30
- **December 7**: Munch-n-Read 2:00-2:30
- **December 12**: Autonomous School Committee Meeting 4:00
- **December 20**: Unit Parties, times to be posted in the RAP
- **December 21 - Jan 2**: No School, Winter Recess
- **January 3**: School Resumes 7:40 AM
- **January 4**: Munch-n-Read 2:00-2:30
- **January 7-11**: Kindness Week
- **January 8**: Parent Advisory Council 6:00, PTSA meeting 6:30
- **January 21**: No School, MLK Day
- **January 24**: Art Fair and Talent Show 5:30 -7:00