

**Library News**

Mrs. McGarry [wmcgarry@bcps.org](mailto:wmcgarry@bcps.org)



Happy New Year &  
Cheers to 2024!

Our CTES library is growing! We acquired a variety of new fiction books including graphic novels, picture books, and easy to read chapter books. Here's a preview of what we're doing in January in the library!

**Pre-K:** We will make observations in short stories and identify patterns, similarities and differences.

**K:** We will continue our unit, *Awesome Authors*. We will study the following authors and explore their books. Let's meet Mo Willems, Grace Lin, Matt de la Pena, & Kevin Henkes!

**Grade 1:** We will continue to explore family relationships in *We Are Family!* We will make text to text, text to self, and text to text connections in a variety of stories.

**Grade 2:** We will research different landforms and use the engineering design process to plan a bridge design. We will be collecting materials like popsicle sticks, tape, and clothespins for our STEM project.

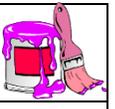
**Grade 3:** We will explore characteristics of tall tales as a unique type of literature. We will draft our own story of an original tall tale character.

**Grade 4:** We will analyze story elements of award-winning books by looking closely at characters winning books. We will create our own book promotion videos.

**Grade 5:** We will explore the contributions Benjamin Banneker's contributions made to both local and global communities. We will research STEM careers and discover contributions to our world today. We will develop a STEM project.

**Art News**

Mr. Greer [dgreer@bcps.org](mailto:dgreer@bcps.org)



Happy New Year!

December was an exciting month in Art as every student made their own gingerbread house ornament using recycled cardboard, markers, and white acrylic paint to look like icing. Students used the smallest detail brushes to paint the beautiful and ornate icing designs on their ornaments after coloring the details with marker.

Other Art projects in December:

**PK, K, & 1-** Identified how snow is formed and made their own snowman collage.

**2-** Identified the 9 big cats of the world, where they live, and created a Lion painting and Tiger collage.

**3 & 4-** Drew and painted their own Grinch portraits using markers and tempera block paint.

**5-** Identified the artist Wayne Thiebaud and how he used colors and shadows to make his dessert paintings look 3D. Each 5<sup>th</sup> grader then drew 6 different 3D shapes before drawing and illustrating different desserts inspired by Wayne Thiebaud,



Phys. Ed News  
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### Here's to a Healthy 2024!

PreK/K: Using various types of balls to throw and catch. Focus on form.

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: Throwing and Catching, with focus on aiming and targeting.

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>: Throwing and Catching in game context (Team Handball).

As we approach the winter months, I understand students may choose or need to wear winter boots or footwear. Please have your child still bring their sneakers for PE to school. They will be allowed to change in the gym, and this will ensure they have the appropriate footwear for safe movement.

Thank you!



Music News  
Mrs. Brought [kbrought@bcps.org](mailto:kbrought@bcps.org)



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PreK/K will be learning about high/low pitch, fast/slow tempo, loud/soft dynamics.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades will be practicing melody moving by step/skip, AB/ABA form and Call & Response form.

 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be learning to play the **RECORDER!!**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will use their recorders to practice note reading. Please dig out that recorder from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and send it to school with your child. Don't have one? Please let me know. Dollar Store recorders do not have the same pitch. Recorders can be purchased at Music & Arts, Menchey Music, or through the school.

Here's to a music-filled 2024!

Instrumental Music News  
Ms. Gingrich [dgingrich@bcps.org](mailto:dgingrich@bcps.org)



5th Grade Instrumental: Strings will begin using the bow on open strings and playing the D Major Scale.

Band will continue to learn notes and fingerings to play simple songs.

4th Grade- We will understand how to hold and use the Violin. We will begin learning about the string family.