

CAES Dragons' Lair

— The CAES Parent Newsletter- December 2019 —

Camp Allen Elementary Instructional Focus 2019-2020

The CAES community will collaborate to ensure that all students within our community can comprehend grade level text in every classroom through the acquisition of rich vocabulary, the utilization of visualization and justification strategies and discussion through number talks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HOUSE OF REVEUR (Blue House)- 1ST QUARTER WINNERS!

IMPORTANT DATES

December 10th

CRAFT & CODE NIGHT (5:00 - 7:30)

Please join us for some fun winter crafts and a chance to learn about computer programming and coding as a family! Winter Crafts (\$5) Coding (FREE!)

December 17th

WINTER CONCERT (6:00 - 7:00)

You are invited to spend some time with us as our students take us on a musical journey in celebration of Winter and all of its festivities!

December 19th

Our 1st Annual VOCABULARY PARADE!

Put your thinking caps on! How would you show the word ADRIFT? or POROUS? or ZIGZAG? From A to Z, students will consider the entire dictionary as possible wardrobe choices. Win Prizes! Learn new words! Play dress up (like a word!) Help us with our instructional focus!

December 20th

HOUSE WINTER CELEBRATION (1:00 - 3:00)

Please contact your child(ren)'s teacher if you would like to support or volunteer during this school-wide event.

December 21st - January 6th

WINTER BREAK

A Visit From Congress...

On November 6th, our school community had the privilege of hosting Congresswoman Elaine Luria for a visit and tour of our campus. During her visit, Rep. Luria participated in discussions with our teacher leadership team, visited one of our 1st grade classrooms to check out our students programming robots and participated in an interview with our student-led news team. Our Dragons were on fire!!



Our School Board Chair, Dr. Gabriel and Rep. Luria with members of our eS2S Team



Rep. Luria meets our mini programmers in Dr. Dashiell's class.

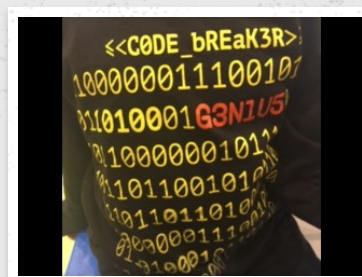


E. Stevens getting "breaking news" from the Congresswoman!

Join Us For Craft and Code Night- December 10th

At Camp Allen we are jumping into coding and getting our students ready for the future!

Please join us to explore some of the ways we are integrating coding and programming into our classrooms! Family Code Night begins at 6:00 p.m.! (It's Free!)



Come a little early and create a holiday craft together as a family. Crafts begin at 5:00! (\$5 to support our student activity fund). We hope to see you there.

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY

THANK YOU to all who donated to our canned food drive to benefit ForKids.org!

Together we collected over 500 items, that have already been delivered to many local families with children.

Our next opportunity is to collect hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the same organization to help keep children warm during the cold winter season. Please donate between December 1st and 13th!

In addition, 16 of our fourth and fifth grade students will be inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society in a ceremony at our school during the week of December 9th. If

your child was "tapped" and received a carnation on November 19, we will soon welcome your child as a member. We are looking forward to great things from these scholars.



DUST OFF YOUR DANCING SHOES!!!!

SAVE THE DATE- JANUARY 24TH!

Please mark your calendar to "Save the Date" for January 24. We will be having a "**Bring your Favorite Gal**" (mom) or "**Bring your Favorite Guy**" (dad) **Dance** after school on that day. Permission slips and an opportunity to order corsages will come home the first week of January.

Kindergarten

We have had an amazing month in Kindergarten! We have learned all about sight words, rhyming words, syllables, numbers, and counting. We have also learned about Thanksgiving and talked about things we are thankful for. We are working hard to meet our goals this year! Remember, each student is working to learn 100 Sight Words. If you haven't received your list, please let us know! Each student is also working towards our goal of counting to 100 by 1 and 10. Thanks for working with us to help each child achieve their goals! We are looking forward to an amazing month and year to come



Go Dragons!

1st Grade

We would like to give you some insight into what we are working on in the classroom in order for you to best support your student at home. **In Math** we are currently working on fluency in addition and subtraction within 10. We also are beginning to discuss single step story and picture problems to 10 as well.

For example: *5 big dogs are at the park. 3 Little dogs join them. How many dogs are at the park in all?* Your student should be able to recognize this as an addition problem and be able to draw a model and solve it successfully on their own. Please continue to review at home.

In Reading, we are currently working on fiction and non-fiction text and text features. Please continue to work on Dolch words nightly. There is a direct correlation between sight word acquisition and reading fluency. In addition, please read with your child for at least 20 minutes a night. This does not need to be independent reading, simply reading to them for pleasure will



encourage their love of reading and success in the classroom. The homework will continue to be a monthly calendar that also lists the weekly spelling words.

2nd Grade

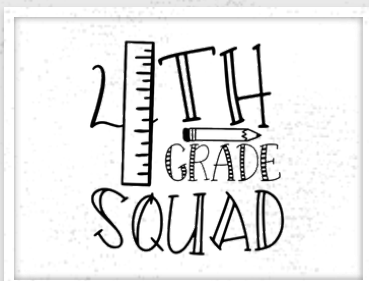
In December for 2nd grade we will be continuing with Estimating in **Math**. For **Writing**, please continue to work on writing complete sentences, formulating paragraphs, and writing with detail using the five senses. In **Reading**, we will be discussing Expository Non-fiction. We will also be using this genre to make and confirm predictions and review character, setting, and plot.

In **Science**, we will be looking at forces of motion and how they affect our daily lives with a focus on magnet strength. In **Social Studies**, we will be starting geography and will be able to identify different components/places on a map. Lastly, continue to read for 20 minutes each night and check Class Dojo at least 3 times a week



3rd Grade

In **Science**, the students have been learning about different animal adaptations and determining if they are a physical or behavioral adaptation. In **Math**, the students have been working creating and analyzing graphs. The students have been conducting their own survey's and collected data to create a pictograph or bar graph. For **Reading**, the students have been working on identifying the theme, comparing and contrasting, character traits of fairy tale stories. Please continue to have your child read nightly. For **Social Studies**, the students have been analyzing photographs from Egypt and pulling information from photo to develop an understanding of Ancient Egypt.



4th Grade

The month of December proves to be a busy time for all. We will be learning about graphing, probability, electricity, the Thirteen Colonies, as well as narrative non-fiction and functional text for reading. Ms. Bollman's class will be performing in the winter concert on December 17. Please continue to check your child's grades in Synergy and encourage them to get their work completed and turned in.

5th Grade

In December, 5th graders will continue to study life in colonial Virginia. Students will also begin studying the Revolutionary War and Virginia's role during this era. In reading, students

will continue working on a variety of reading skills including identifying the main idea, using context clues to understand unknown words, and making inferences while reading. Please encourage your child to read 20 minutes each night. Nonfiction text has been a difficult genre for fifth graders- encourage your child to find a book on a topic that interests them! Also ask your child about our daily vocabulary word and what it means.



We have been busy building and testing electric circuits in science! We will continue to learn about the characteristics of light, and begin studying sound. Our mathematicians have been busy solving equations with variables, and will work with decimals and fractions through December. Be on the lookout for the annual science project packet .



Music

Our annual Winter Concert will be on Tuesday, December 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Students who are performing in the Winter Concert will begin preparing their performances.

The following classes will be performing at the Winter

Concert:

Dashiell

Lindey

Taylor

Dalton

Pass

Kohn

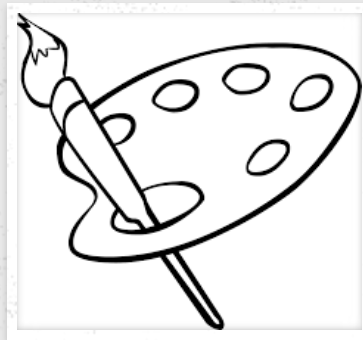
Bollman

Hasbrouck

Strings

Chorus.

All other classes will perform in the Spring Concert.



Art

In Art this quarter the theme is Celebrations Around the World.

We continue our lessons and projects focusing on this Big Idea in all grade levels.

Over the winter break, encourage your children to use their imagination and explore new mediums to create artwork. Art can be made out of almost anything!

Online Fun:

For some fun and exciting winter activities, check out the following online sites. They provide enrichment ideas and exciting projects to keep the little ones busy over the winter break.

For craft ideas, projects and art games:

www.artsology.com

www.crayola.com

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts

Check out these free online drawing sites too:

<http://artpad.art.com/artpad/painter/> www.Canvastic.net

www.picassohead.com



Media

As the days get shorter, many children find that they are stuck inside. Instead of a cell phone or a tablet in front of them, why not give them a book. Books will take you to places that you never dreamed of before. Books will make you laugh, increase your vocabulary and even help you to learn about the world around you. So during these cold December evenings, why not Travel Through Reading!

A Message From Our Counselor

Heading into this busy season, it is easy for our minds to get wrapped up in the "to-do" and the hustle and bustle of life. It can be difficult to slow our minds and bodies down. This is just as true for our students as it is for adults. Try to taking a mindful moment for yourself or with your child during the day. Some deep breathes and a short visualization can help center us during busy days.

For more information on mindfulness for students and families consider GoNoodle.com (<https://www.gonoodle.com/blog/five-steps-to-practicing-mindfulness-as-a-family/>) or the book Sitting Still Like A Frog by Eline Snel.

Remaining Open Houses:

Southside STEM Academy at Campostella on Dec 4, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Academy for Discovery at Lakewood on Jan 8, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Pre-med Health and Engineering at Blair on Jan 9, 6:00 p.m.

Would You Like To Volunteer?

Please keep in mind if you would like to volunteer in our school community a completed background check is required. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Littlejohn our Family Engagement Specialist at slittlejohn1@nps.k12.va.us.

Volunteer Background Check Directions



- www.npsk12.com
- Select the For Parents tab at the top of web page
- Click on Download Application
- Select the Apply to Volunteer Icon
- Search for Camp Allen Elementary School
- Select the Apply to Volunteer Icon once again
- Register and Follow Instructions


You will receive an email with your approval followed by a volunteer card within 7-10 days.

Please forward the email or a copy of your volunteer card to Mrs. Littlejohn at


slittlejohn1@nps.k12.va.us



Follow "Allen" and our Dragons on Twitter

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 757-451-4170

 [npsk12.com/caes](https://www.facebook.com/npsk12.com/caes)