Happy New Year! 2019 was a fun and fruitful year for us at Ridge Ruxton School and we are excited to look forward to 2020. This year our school progress plan is focused on communication, high quality instruction, and positive behavior supports for students. We strive to create programs at school that will most benefit our students and their families at home and in the community. In short, we want appropriate, engaging, and individualized instruction. To do this well, we need to partner with our families.

The BCPS Special Education Resource Center offers workshop and resources to help parents navigate the special education process and partner with their child’s school. Attached to this newsletter are the winter workshop offerings. Please email serc@bcps.org to register for any session. Understanding Your Child’s IEP is an upcoming helpful session. This workshop is designed to give parents a more in depth examination of the components of their child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) document. A closer look at the IEP will help you learn what you need to know to become more effective as an equal member of your child’s IEP team. Presented by Leslie Seid Margolis, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland Thursday February 20, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., BCPS Greenwood Campus, Building E, Room 123. Email serc@bcps.org to register.

Missy Beltran, principal

Upcoming Events

January 7 - Board of Ed meeting 6:30pm Building E
January 9 - BCPS Day. Wear Blue to celebrate BCPS.
January 15 - Young Audiences assembly. 10:00 a.m.
January 20 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - Schools closed.
January 24 - 2nd marking period ends. Schools close 3 hours early for all students.
January 31 - Birthday Social 1:30
Social Worker's Corner:

It has been a busy winter here at the Ridge Ruxton Social Work Department! I have been working with students individually and in classroom groups on our Zones of Regulation social skills curriculum. Also, students have been helping A LOT with the trout tank. We released our large rainbow trout into the Little Gunpowder at Jerusalem Mill Road in mid-December and received about 60 trout eggs the week before the winter break. Stay tuned for more social skills groups and lots of learning around the trout life cycle and ecosystems!

Jay Dover
School Social Worker

Artist of the month

Congratulations to Damon B. from Mr. Simms class! Damon is Ridge Ruxton School's Artist of the Month for December, 2019 for participating and following directions in art class. Keep up the great work Damon!

Tricia Lane-Forster, Art teacher.

Musician of the Month

Congratulations to all of the students who performed in our Winter Concert. We were very impressed by all of the singing, dancing, signing, and instrumental groups. A very special thank you goes out to all of the staff members involved in supporting our students and to all the guests who came to cheer and enjoy.

Bravo!
Pen pals

Many of our classes have been learning about writing letters. Writing to a loved one and sharing news and photos can be a great way to connect. We are always looking for ways to build the home school connection. If your child would like to write to someone special, let us know and we will work to include.

Have you met Officer Tim?

Officer Tim Kratz is our School Resource Officer. Officer Tim serves 10 BCPS schools. We love having him here and he loves Ridge Ruxton. (we are secretly his favorite school!) Stop and say hi if you see him in the building.

Health Suite News

The health suite is happy to announce the addition of our new nurse, Mrs. Debbie Barcikowski, who joined us in August 2019. Debbie comes to Ridge Ruxton with over 20 years of nursing experience, with a concentration in Pediatrics and maternal child health. She has worked at Chimes, Kaiser Pediatrics, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and Johns Hopkins Pediatrics at home. Please join us in welcoming Debbie to Ridge Ruxton!

Welcome back to school. We hope everyone had a restful and healthy holiday. Cold and flu season is here. Colds and flu are caused by viruses. Antibiotics do not cure viral infections; they only work on infections caused by bacteria. If you do get sick: get as much rest as possible, drink at least 8 glasses of liquid, humidify your bedroom, take acetaminophen or ibuprofen to reduce fever and relieve aches. If your child has a fever he/she may return to school after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours without taking acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

Myths & tips about dressing for winter:
Myth: Dressing warmly will keep you from catching a cold.
Fact: Viruses cause colds not cold weather.
Myth: You lose 80% of your body heat through your head.
Fact: You lose body heat from any exposed body part. Keep those parts covered!
Myth: You have to dress in layers.
Fact: Layers allow people to adjust to different activity levels, but one well-made warm garment will do just as much to keep away the cold.
Myth: Cotton is a good insulator.
Fact: When cotton gets wet, it conducts heat away from the body at a more rapid rate than other fabrics. A good substitute is polypropylene capilene or other synthetics that pull water away from the skin. (Adapted from Vitality 2000, Issue 4)

Again, all medications must be brought to school by a parent or responsible adult. A physician's order is required for any medications given at school including over the counter medication.

Marjorie Salata, RN; Jane Callaghan, RN; Elizabeth Beilman, RN; Debbie Barcikowski, RN; Akila Johnson, HA
Breakfast With Santa

Oh what fun we had!
Thank you to our Ridge Ruxton Boosters and a donation from the Lions Club of Cockeysville for making this event possible! We are also grateful to the Catholic High School of Baltimore for joining our Ridge Ruxton Signing Chorus in entertaining us with holiday music.

Ridge Ruxton School

Facebook @RidgeRuxton

6916 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD
(410) 887-3594
mbeltran@bcps.org
ridgeruxtones.bcps.org/