



December 2019 Newsletter

Mitchell Elementary

2 Perry Street Charleston, SC 29403

[http:// mitchell.ccsdschools.com/](http://mitchell.ccsdschools.com/) Telephone: 843-724-7262

Upcoming Events

January 8 School Improvement Council 5:00 pm in the Library

January 9 CD/K Interactive Literacy 8:30 in the Library

January 17 Grade 5 Make It / Take It 8:30 in the Conference Room

January 17 Early Dismissal

January 20 MLK Day – No School

January 22 Report Cards

January 24 Honors and Awards
8:30 CD – 2nd 9:30 3rd – 5th

January 29 Star Party at Brittlebank Park 6:00

A Message from Principal Deborah Smith

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are quickly approaching winter break! We will dismiss at 11:00 on the 20th for the winter break and students will return Monday January 6. I want to make you aware that next year we are fortunate enough to have an upgrade to our school. We will be getting a safety vestibule, a new heating and air conditioning system, and will have painting and carpet done in rooms. With the scope of work that needs to be done we will need to move out of the building for one year. The district will be relocating students to Camp Road. They will be providing a bus for travel, and we hope that all of our students will remain with us during this transition process. We will keep you updated on this one-year move, but wanted to make you aware of it happening. Also, if you received the letter regarding CCSD's lead testing in the water system, I want to assure you that our water is fine. There was only one unused faucet in the science lab that showed a slight trace of lead and it has been replaced. If you have any questions about either of these issues, please feel free to contact me.



Volunteer of the Month:

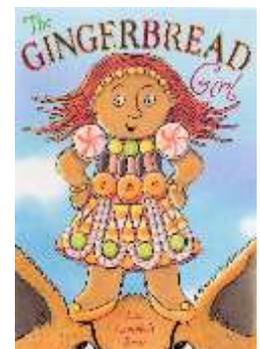
Matthew Greseth
with MUSC's Science Program for 4th graders

Parent of the Month:

Shawnta Frasier
mother of 1st grader Audriana Frasier

Title 1 News

CD/Kindergarten students and their parents enjoyed our Interactive Literacy on December 12th. This month our books were *The Gingerbread Girl* and *Fast Food*. We did a Gingerbread Glyph with the students. For snack, we decorated gingerbread cookies. We had a great turn out for December and are looking forward to our next Interactive Literacy on January 9th from 8:30-9:30 in the library. Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you have any questions, please contact:



Alison Johnson,
Counselor
843-958-8781.

Hope to see you at the Mitchell Star Party!

January 29, 2020 6:00pm
Brittlebank Park

We'll observe the night sky with members of the Lowcountry Stargazers Club. They will bring their telescopes and their knowledge of stars and planets to share with us.



Classroom News



December is an exceptionally busy month, but we do hope you take some time to pause and be mindful of all that we get to do here at Mitchell every day. Your kids are growing by leaps and bounds, and this time of year is when we really get to witness some magic. Academically, we're pushing forward with letters and sounds, as well as numbers, counting, and quantity comparison. We're also focusing on being empathetic and thankful as we continue to learn how to be good friends. We hope you have a warm and wonderful holiday season and can't wait to see you all back, safe and sound, on January 6th.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been busy this holiday season! November and December were filled with several field trips and lots of learning. Students have been working hard in reading groups and will begin learning kindergarten sight words after Winter Break. Our students have also begun math units on addition and subtraction. We look forward to all that the new year will bring and the growth we will see in our students as they approach 1st grade! Please always check your child's folder and calendar to stay up to date on what's happening here at school!



The first graders have been learning about the holiday traditions that are celebrated all over the world. Although some of the traditions may be different than ours, we enjoy listening to stories and respect how others celebrate. We know that our differences make the world a more interesting and better place! In math we continue to focus on addition and subtraction. We are also incorporating telling time, 3D shapes and counting money. Please be sure to review the weekly tests at home. We love writing our own word problems. This really allows us to display what we are learning in reading, writing and higher level thinking in math! Try it at home! We hope everyone enjoys their holiday and we are looking forward to an awesome start to the year! 2020 here we come!



Happy Holidays! Many thanks for the 2nd graders that came and performed at the Holiday PTA Concert! Even with Winter Break right around the corner, students have been engaged with their learning. Math groups are focused on 2 digit addition & subtraction, word problems, 2D & 3D shapes, and graphing. In Social Studies students are working on public safety officials, and government leaders like mayor, governor, and president. In Science students have been learning about the life cycle of frogs and butterflies. In ELA, students have been writing how-to stories, reading poetry, enjoying folktales like *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*, and researching animals.



Nurse's Notes

It won't be long until flu season is in full swing!

The most effective way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine.

Influenza is a respiratory illness caused by various strains of the influenza virus. Often, people refer to viral gastroenteritis (persistent vomiting and diarrhea) as the flu. But, true influenza may not include vomiting and diarrhea at all.

What are the symptoms of FLU?

- Abrupt onset of Fever (often high, 102-104) lasting 3-5 days
- Cough (usually dry), which may last 2 weeks or longer
- Sore Throat
- Muscle and body aches
- Runny nose or congestion
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Vomiting and diarrhea may be present in children but not always.

How is Flu treated?

In most cases, **symptomatic treatment** is all that is necessary. This includes rest, fluids, using a humidifier, and depending on the age and symptoms of the child, an over the counter pain reliever and fever reducer, cough suppressant or decongestant may be used. One safe remedy for cough in children over 1 year of age is to take a teaspoon of honey. This has been shown to be effective in reducing cough especially at night.



Third graders are studying life science. Specifically, we are engaging in lessons, experiments, and research on what organisms need to survive in their environments. If you read anything on this topic at home, please bring those texts in to share with us. Please continue to read with your children daily over the holidays. Students need a break from school but never from reading!! We are so grateful for each third grader, the Mitchell staff, and you. Happy Holidays!!



Fourth graders are learning to multiply fractions. Our current science topic is the solar system, and students are making star finder wheels. These wheels will help us identify constellations during our schoolwide Star Party on the evening of January 29 at Brittlebank Park. Mrs. Jackson's class is enjoying a read aloud of *The BFG* by Roald Dahl.



The 5th grade has continued to be very busy. This month we have been reading, working hard on reading skills, and going to small groups. Mrs. Hulseley's class did a small project on real reindeer. Ask your child to give you some reindeer facts. I bet you'll be surprised at what they know! In math, we have been working on quadrilaterals, plot graphs, line graphs, and adding/subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. We had fun making a map of a River Trail and answering questions about the hiker's travels. We hope you have a safe and restful Holiday break, and that everyone comes back rested and ready to learn!

How is Flu spread?

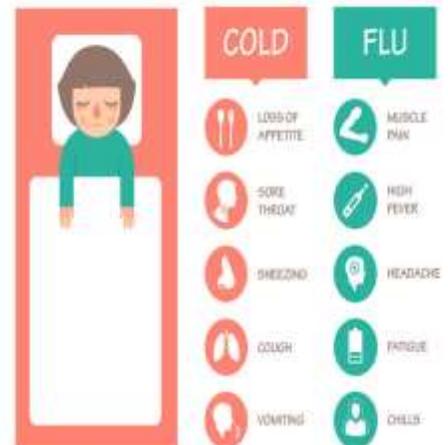
It is spread generally by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. The droplets can land in the noses or mouths of others or onto surfaces. Some people contract flu by touching a surface with the virus on it and then rubbing their eyes, nose or mouth.

How long is it contagious?

Those with flu are thought to be contagious from one day prior to symptom development until 5 – 7 days after the illness starts. Young children may be able to spread the virus even longer.

Please keep children at home if you suspect the flu.

IS IT A COLD OR THE FLU?



Important Attendance Information

It is extremely important for students to attend school on a regular basis. As a South Carolina public school, Mitchell Elementary is required to follow SC laws and CCSD Board policies regarding attendance. We are happy to work with all families. However, we must maintain compliance with the South Carolina Department of Education.

We are required to take period attendance this year. That means your child's attendance will be taken for each class.

Attendance information can be found in the CCSD Code of Conduct. Please see the parent resource section of our homepage for the CCSD Code of Conduct.

Quick Reminders:

All absences require a written explanation from the parent/guardian within three (3) school days of return from the absence.

A written explanation of absences must include the student's name, parent/guardian's full name, parent/guardian's signature, date(s) of absence(s), and documentation of the reason for absence(s).

Text messages and emails are not acceptable documentation for student absences.

Truant: A child, at least 6 but not yet 17 years old, who has accumulated three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences.

