

# December Newsletter

## Clayton Elementary



### A message from Principal, Mrs. Moyer

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

We are extremely grateful for the amazing students, staff, and families who are part of Clayton Elementary School. This school year so far has been absolutely amazing, and we couldn't be happier.

In November, our students participated in so many compassionate events. Our third-grade chorus visited the Delaware Veteran's Home to perform for them and show our gratitude for their service. We also held a Veteran's Day Ceremony at CES where we honored many veterans in our community. The first grade performed a "We are Thankful" concert for their parents and did an amazing job.

Parent conferences were held in November, and we are extremely thankful for the high participation. The home-school connection is extremely important to us, and we truly believe that our partnership will lead to the success of your children.

December is filled with many more events as well. Our Math and Reading Night is December 7th from 5:30-7:00 and we hope to see you all there. In addition, our fourth grade will chorus will be performing at 6:30 p.m. on December 12th and the second grade will perform at 6:30 p.m. on December 13th.

We hope that you all have a restful, relaxing, and safe winter break.

As always, we appreciate the home-school connection and open communication. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Please Join us on the following social media accounts: Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ClaytonElementarySchool>

Instagram @clayton\_eagles School website <https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/ces>

Dec 7 -Reading and Math Night 5:30-7:00pm

Dec 9 -Craft Fair

Dec 12 -4<sup>th</sup> grade performance 6:30

Dec 13 -2<sup>nd</sup> grade performance 6:30

Dec 22-Jan 1<sup>st</sup>-Winter Break- NO SCHOOL

### A message from Associate Principal, Mr. Daws

Brrrrrrr....it is getting cold outside. Please make sure that you are sending your child to school in temperature appropriate clothing. Don't forget the heavy coat, hats, and gloves. Also, please make sure to label all items so that if something gets accidentally left, we can make sure it finds its way back to the owner.

We are very excited for the Holidays to spend time with family, friends, and loved ones but want to take time to reflect on all the amazing things we accomplished in the first 4 months of school. Our students are fully immersed in their learning, navigating the daily schedule, and making amazing connections with their teachers and classmates.

We are looking forward to some down time with family and friends but equally excited to see all the great and amazing things that 2024 has in store for all of us at CES.

# Mrs. Massey's Reading Review

We hope to see you at Reading & Math Night on December 7<sup>th</sup>!

## Focus on Early Reading

The most simple and important way you can encourage your child's love of reading is by reading yourself. Read, read, read, and love it! Let your child see you reading for pleasure. If you want your child to value reading, you must show them that you do!



## Encouraging Language

Reading with your child is very important. However, there are other things that you can do that will also help develop your child's language skills.

**Tell your child stories.** This helps build a love of language and provides an opportunity for you and your child to talk.

**Talk with your child.** Look for opportunities daily to talk with your child about the world around them. One easy idea is turn off the television for a night and take a walk.

**Visit the library regularly.** Libraries provide wonderful children's programs and resources for free. The more people that your child talks with and the more language they hear, the better!

## Word Families



Teaching your child word families is a great way to help them learn to read many words quickly. The word family is the ending chunk of the word, such as "at" in the word cat. If your child can read "at," they most likely can also read the words bat, fat, hat, mat, and sat.

Some good word families to start with include: -am, -an, -all, -at, -et, -in, -ig, -ick, -ip, -og, -ot, -op, -ug, and -ut.

## Learning to Read

The process of learning to read is a complex one! Reading includes:

**Phonological Awareness:** The ability to hear and manipulate the spoken parts of words and sentences.

**Phonemic Awareness:** The ability to work with the individual sound or phoneme in spoken words.

**Phonics:** The relationship between sounds and letters.

**Word Recognition:** The ability to read high-frequency words.

**Fluency:** The ability to read with accuracy, speed, and expression.

**Comprehension:** The ability to understand what was read.

**Spelling and Writing:** The ability to see the patterns in language and understand how words are put together.





## Greetings CES families

As you all know, this time of year can bring great joy and happiness but with it can also come elevated levels of stress and anxiety. Changes in routine and added items to your already full schedule can leave you and your family feeling overwhelmed. This is why it is important to practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is allowing yourself a moment to pause and reflect on what is happening within your body and all around you. Having a toolbox of coping strategies can help you and your children decompress after a long, stressful day and can even help in the moments when big feelings seem to take over. Practicing techniques like deep breathing (finger, butterfly, and wave breathing) and grounding (taking a moment to notice sensations and your surroundings using your five senses) can help regulate your body and mind. Taking time to turn off screens and get fresh air can help you reset when things become overwhelming. Your children can feel when you are stressed and overwhelmed and they can feed off that, so taking time as a family to practice a few calming strategies when everyone is in a good mood can help in those moments when things become too much. With that being said, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable winter break and time to spend relaxing with those you love.

Take care!



December 3rd through the 9<sup>th</sup> is National Handwashing Awareness Week.

Hand washing is easy to do and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of many types of infection and illnesses including COVID-19, flu, colds, and certain types of diarrhea related illnesses, to name a few. To fight off these infections and illnesses everyone should wash their hands before eating, drinking, touching your face and preparing food.

Spend this week educating everyone in the family. Here 2 helpful videos on handwashing to help:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hmd\\_sNIN2M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hmd_sNIN2M)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAdYDucios>

The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness were endorsed by the American Medical Association and American Academy of Family Physicians in 2001.

1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating.
2. Do not cough or sneeze into hands, use a tissue or cough/sneeze into your elbow.
3. Do not sneeze into hands.
4. Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose, or mouth!

Other resources for handwashing:

<https://henrythehand.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dr-Will-National-Handwashing-Awareness-Week-Letter-2020.pdf>

<https://livingmontessorinow.com/handwashing-activities-for-kids-free-songs-and-lessons/>