



THE WILDCAT "MEWS"

Second Nine Weeks

MES Celebrates Academic Success

Millboro Elementary School celebrated its academic successes when it hosted the annual banquet on October 18th. Joining in giving the students all the praise was Mr. Gene Lilly who was the guest speaker for the evening. He used the metaphor that the journey of life is much like a drive in a car: lots of turns, speeding up, slowing down, and sometimes accidents. As a former teacher and coach in Augusta County, Mr. Lilly brought with him a wealth of knowledge including many personal anecdotes and experiences that he felt the students would need to know to not only be successful in school, but in life as well. Fifty-eight students were recognized for passing all parts of their Standards of Learning assessments. In addition, fourteen students received an additional award for achieving a perfect score on at least one test. Students are encouraged to do their best on the Standards of Learning tests so they could be invited to next year's banquet.



CALENDAR

American Red Cross Scrubby Bear Program—Gr. PreK-1	11/16/10
Children's Art Network Program—Gr. 2-3	11/17/10
Fall Break	11/22-11/26
BCPS Band Concert 7:00 PM @ BCHS	12/9/10
Breakfast with Santa Claus 7:00-10:00 MES Cafeteria	12/11/10
Progress Reports Go Home	12/13/10
MES Christmas Program 7:00 @ MES	12/14/10
Children's Art Network Program—Gr. 4	12/16/10
Winter Break	12/23-1/2
End of Second Nine Weeks— Early Release 12:30 PM	1/14/11
Pupil Holiday	1/17/11
Report Cards Go Home	1/24/11



Have You Registered Your Kroger's Card?



Kroger's and Campbell's have teamed up together to give schools the opportunity to gain additional soup label points. All you have to do is visit the Kroger's website and register your card. Once registered, each time you purchase a Campbell's soup product, the school automatically receives additional points.

	September	October
Brunner	151	13
Armstrong	402	21
Whitson	275	40
Hepler	120	4
Madison	550	150
Manion	212	85
Crawford	13	263
Hardbarger	84	1
Lee	3	28
TOTAL	1810	605



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten class was very busy during the past month studying the fall theme. We went on a nature walk to see the many signs of fall. The children were able to see leaves of many colors. We also read books to explain why the leaves change colors in the fall. Many parents sent in different kinds of nuts for the class to see. We had chestnuts, walnuts, hickory nuts along with acorns. They used scales to see which weighed more.

We also did many activities with apples. The students decided they would sort the apples by color and size. We then estimated how many were in a container. There were many interesting choices but one student did name the correct number. We did a graph to see comparisons

of the different colored apples. We did weighing activities with the apples using scales to determine how many were needed on each side of the scale to even it out. We ended the unit having a tasting party with foods and drinks made from apples. The children tasted apple cake, strudel, jelly, juice, apple butter, applesauce and apple slices. They were all very tasty. Thanks to parents and grandparents who sent in these items for the class to taste.

We ended the month of October talking about Halloween. We made a list of what we would be for Halloween and made a book with the students doing their own illustrations. We plan to send the book home with each child to share

with their parents.

We started the month of November studying good foods. We talked about the four food groups and the food pyramid. We discussed how important it is to eat foods from each food group each day to keep us strong and healthy.

Before Thanksgiving break, we will study Native Americans and talk about how they made their own weapons and had to hunt for their food. The students will have an opportunity to see arrow heads that may have been used by the Native Americans that lived here in our own county. We will also learn about Pocahontas and Powhatan. These are two famous Americans listed on the Sol's to learn about while in Kindergarten.

First Grade

First grade students were very busy the first nine weeks of school. In addition to learning ALL the new routines, rules, and expectations of first grade, there were many activities that kept them engaged. The month of October was packed with many interesting things. I'll share a few. Of course, one important holiday we had to study was Columbus Day. The children listened to several books about Colum-



bus' life, watched a video, made art projects, and read their own student-made books about Christopher Columbus. Following the unit of study, they each received a certificate for mastering the story of Christopher Columbus.

The Children's Art Network from Richmond provided an art demonstration for the children on October 13th. First grader's topic was 'Color It Windy.' After observing several paintings of various types of weather, the children discussed

the different types of weather that was portrayed in each setting. Then, they went to work making their own weather related art projects. Each student got to make "Head in the Clouds" hats, skyscrapers with snow, and wet chalk drawings of different types of weather. They really enjoyed the program.

With Halloween soon approaching, we HAD to do some Pumpkin Math. Our class pumpkin, Pedro Pumpkin, was quite busy.

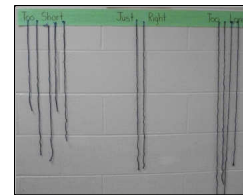


Let me tell you just a few things we did. We did some estimation activities. The first thing we did was try to guess the weight of our pumpkin. We predicted if the pumpkin would weigh more or less than each of them (to help them somewhat in their guesses). After making that determination, each student then estimated how much Pedro, the pumpkin, weighed. Of course, some guesses were very near the actual weight and some were quite amusing. Pedro weighed 12 pounds.

After that, we estimated the CIRCUMFERENCE of Pedro Pumpkin. I was quite surprised as to how close some of the predictions were to be correct. Some guesses were too short, some were too long, and believe it or not, we had TWO

estimates that were just right! Another activity

we did was to find out whether our pumpkin would sink or float. What is your prediction? Yep! It floated. Of course, all of the children were very surprised because they predicted that it would sink.



Our final project was to carve our pumpkin. After voting on the type of face our jack-o-lantern would wear, which was the 'mad' face, we carved the pumpkin. They all took turns cleaning the pulp out of the pumpkin. It was so much fun watching their faces as they reached into the pumpkin's slimy tummy. Some jumped right in with both hands, and some barely touched the pulp. Of course, Dalton jumped in with both hands and



dug way down deep to get both hands full of pulp!

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard!



Third Grade

What a fast 9 weeks! We've been busy in all subject areas along with special activities. We each received a dictionary thanks to the Millboro Ruritan Club. Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Waters, and Mrs. Duquette from the organization visited our classroom along with Mrs. Hensley and 3 other members from the Woodrow Wilson District Ruritans. We have enjoyed all the interesting information in the dictionaries. We wrote thank you notes to those who visited us.

We enjoyed having visitors during National School Lunch Week. We now have a guest table in the cafeteria for students and their visitors.

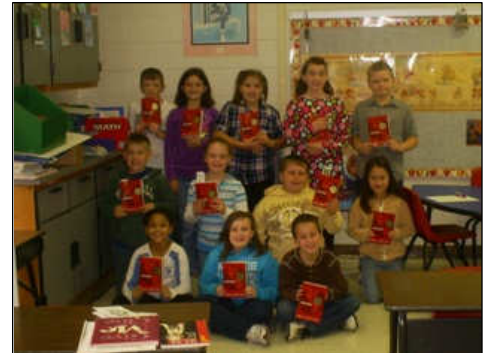
We all earned a Red Robin certificate and the October Book It certificate for reading.

We were able to hear the SCA speeches made by upper grade students

interested in being officers. We also elected a class representative. Gabriele Herscher will represent us.

The 2nd 9 weeks will find us just as busy. We have a field trip to the Frontier Museum. In math we will be working on addition, subtraction, money, and time. Science time will be spent on habitats and the states of matter. Pilgrims, the beginning of our country, and pioneers will be our topics in Social Studies. In Language Arts we will be writing letters, learning to spell more and more words, and working in the handwriting book along with making many entries in our journals. In reading each group will be working on a chapter book. Thanks for helping with homework! Keep up the good work!

The talent show was a great success. We thank so many parents and grandparents for attending.



Preschool

Our little folks sure are having a great time this fall. We seem to have settled into routine and are all very comfortable with our surroundings. School is like our second home!

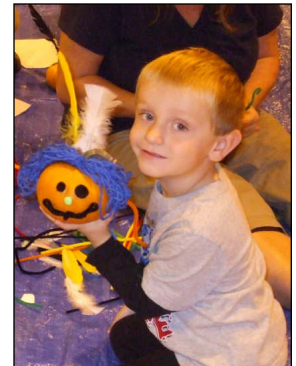
Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. This tradition began in 1836.

Preschool's biggest adventure, this fall, has been a

field trip to the Hot Springs Fire Department. We stopped by the Bath County Library on that trip too! It was a busy day for all of us! Back at M.E.S. we have developed new friendships with our older buddies in 7th grade. On Mondays and Thursdays, 7th grade Big Boy Book Buddies come to our classroom. We read together and also work on our ABC's. We use a program called Writing Without Tears and our buddies are great at helping us write/shape our letters. In October, Preschool had a special Family Fun Breakfast. We had a grand time sharing our yummy biscuits and gravy with moms, dads and grandparents! Mrs. Lancaster

came to read to us on a day called Read Across America. She read us the story A Very Snowy Day. Mrs. Lancaster snuggled down in a warm, wooly, coat and we all snuggled down on our tummy's to listen! Halloween was "awesome" as Preschooler Nickolas Bryant likes to say. We decorated pumpkins with Mrs. Forsyth in gym. Each preschooler made their very own creation! We are so proud when we create our own work!

One of the best things about being a preschooler is that we learn while we play. Do you think it will always be this way? We sure hope so! We're keeping our eyes open for Jack Frost, yummy turkeys and pilgrims, snow flurries and maybe even that ole 'fellar who rides in the sleigh. We'll be sure to share these adventures with you next time.





Fourth Grade

Fourth grade worked on developing number sense and estimation skills in math the first nine weeks. Students are working on using rounding, compatible numbers, and front-end estimation to decide what the estimated answer to a problem will be. We also spent a great deal of time working on place value. We started working on place value with decimals, perimeter, and adding numbers. Fourth grade is also working on applying their math skills to more realistic problems – word problems. We will continue working on word problems in the coming nine weeks as well as working on estimation. Both of those skills will be developing throughout the year. The second nine weeks will see us cover multiplication and division. If your student does not know their multiplication facts, then please spend time studying them. Multiplication is using those facts not learning them.

We also continued using our math skills in science. In science fourth grade worked on learning to use metric units to measure length and capacity. We also worked on putting information into graphs. We will be doing more graphs this coming nine weeks. The information needs to be interpreted from graphs as well as recorded. We also worked on observation, conclusion, and predictions. Those are key concepts to understand in order to conduct science experiments which we will be doing more of as the school year progresses. We

Child singer Jimmy Boyd was 12 years old when he sang the Christmas favorite, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

learned a bit about plants specifically trees. We would like to extend a thank you to MeadWestvaco for coming in to help us make paper and explaining how trees are used.

We also started Tree Trekking with Christine Hodges. We have worked on using a classification process to identify native trees. We will continue to work on that all year. In addition, we are attempting to raise brook trout, the state fish. We received the eggs on September 27 and they started hatching the next day. Currently, they are almost out of the alevin stage and into the fry stage. That means they have almost finished "eating" their eggs and are about ready to start eating themselves. Ranger Beth Hawse from Douthat State Park came and worked with us on learning their life cycle and adaptations. We will be dissecting trout this coming nine weeks and learning more about animals in general. Hopefully, we will also work on weather.

Tree Trekking and Trout in the Classroom support learning about the native resources Virginia has. That was something we started learning a little bit about when we learned the geographic regions of Virginia. There are five. Not only did the class learn the regions of Virginia they learned what Indian tribes are currently recognized by the state of Virginia and where their original lands were located. After we studied the American Indians who lived in

Virginia, we brought English colonists to Virginia. We've learned how rough a time they had trying to get a colony started and how important the House of Burgesses was to history. Currently, we are learning about the colonial period in Virginia. We will continue that into the second nine weeks and learn about the American Revolution's impact on Virginia and Virginians' impact on the American Revolution.

English includes writing, reading, and spelling. We've learned the spelling patterns used to add -ing or -ed to verbs. We will continue to work on that in the coming nine weeks. We are also working on recognizing syllables and vowel sounds. Fourth grade has read several fiction books the first nine weeks. We worked on finding right there answers in the reading. We moved a little bit past that to thinking about answers instead of the answers being right in the reading. This coming nine weeks we will work on sequencing things a lot more. We will also continue to work on comprehension questions, but we will read some historical fiction the first nine weeks. Actually, we read one historical fiction book, Blood on the River, the first nine weeks. It's about how Jamestown got started. The importance of historical fiction is how it works true facts into the story. We also started a pen pal project with the fourth grade class at Highland Elementary. We will continue to work on writing the second nine weeks. We will probably move from simply letter writing to working on some nonfiction writing.





Grade 5-7 Social Studies

Aye Carumba! November? Seriously? I cannot believe how fast this year is going by. Fifth grade Reading has been a blast this past nine-weeks. We did so much fun stuff with *The Sign of the Beaver*, including making our own pants! What fun! *Maniac Magee* is proving to be an equally enjoyable book. I know they're going to love Butterscotch Krimpets just as much as Jeffrey!

In History we've learned about the Native Americans who lived on our continent long before we did as well as the European explorers who met those Natives some five hundred years ago. We're moving right along and into the original 13 colonies.

Please don't forget to visit my webpage at <http://sharepoint.bath.k12.va.us/mes>. Click on Classroom/Department Websites and find my name. Be sure to click the US History I or Reading tab to see what's happening in fifth grade.

US History II has been equally as exciting! The sixth-graders really seem to be enjoying learning about the not-so-distant past (maybe as much as I enjoy teaching it). They've been catching on to how some sports teams get their names, as we've learned about the steel industry in Pittsburgh, the Gold Rush of '49, and the long-horn steers out west! Fun stuff! We've been learning about immigration and the atrocities of the Jim Crow era. We're

headed towards the 20th century and will learn about the "Captains of Industry" that created a major boom of growth in the U.S.

Seventh graders, in Civics and Economics, have really impressed me so far! I love their interest in our laws and how government works. I think their weekly current events assignment has really kept them on the ball, too, with what's going on outside of Millboro! Election season was perfect for our content, as they learned about the American political process. Up next is the three branches of government. Until next time...

Grade 5-7 Math

It's been a very busy nine weeks period for math students in grades 5-7. All three grades have worked very hard and we have covered a lot of Math SOLs. The seventh grade has been really working hard on mastering discounts, sales tax, proportions, ratios, order of operations, and positive and negative integers. We have covered SOL objectives 7.1 through 7.6. Parents, if you will have your SOL require-

Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895. The idea for using electric lights came from American, Ralph Morris, who thought it was safer than using candles!!!

ment sheets that were sent home with your child's report card last spring, you can look at those and see where we are and where we have to go by the end of the year.

The sixth grade has been studying composite and prime numbers, learning how to construct a factor tree, and the purpose for finding the greatest common factor and the least common multiple with like denominators. We will be working on all

aspects of fractions over the next week or two. We are currently working on SOL objective 6.6.

Our fifth graders are struggling, but working diligently on their multiplication tables. We must master these before we really can dig into our required SOL objectives. At this time, we are still working on SOL objective 5.3.

Thanks to all of the parents who help their child with homework and their many questions about how to do this or that particular problem.

Visit MES's Furtal Website for Holiday Shopping

How many parents will be ordering Christmas presents online this year? Do you need to send a present to that aunt, uncle, or relative living in another state? The easier way to do this is by purchasing your product through Millboro Elementary School's Furtal website.

Do you ever shop online? If you or anyone in your family shops on Amazon, Sears, iTunes, Expedia or over 400 other popular retail merchants, you can ensure

that a portion of what you spend will be sent to our school each time you go shopping online; shopping online at the same stores and at the same prices. Go to www.va.furtal.com to get started and select Millboro from the drop-down menu.

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From the School Nurse

Congratulations! We have made it through the First Nine Weeks and, yes, we are beginning to experience a distinct change in the temperature...Colder weather usually ushers in the Flu Season, so be sure that you and all your family members follow your Medical Practitioner's advice to obtain your flu vaccines! There are many places where Flu vaccines can be obtained, starting w/ your Health Practitioner, Health Department, and other outlets, such as the Pharmacies at Walmart and Krogers, to name a few. And, of course, the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is still a good rule of thumb—good hand-washing and the use of hand sanitizers when water is not available can not be over-emphasized!! Good nutrition and proper rest and exercise are also invaluable variables of good hygiene which help assure better over-all health!! Let us remember that dressing according to the weather is also helpful to protect us and our loved one's from illness—so bring out those warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots, to help ward off illness from exposure to the colder temperatures!

Hunting Season is also here and many youngsters will be accompanying parents into the woods: Warmth and hydration are important considerations for your young hunters; always carry high energy snacks but avoid those high energy drinks which can cause adverse heart symptoms and other undesired side effects. Be sure their clothing includes blaze orange so they can be seen and not mistaken for game and always carry a first aid kit, in the event of any mishaps. Each person

should have his or her own whistle (with a plastic shield) to blow if they become separated and lost from the hunting party—it takes less energy to blow a whistle than it does to yell, and you don't have to worry about losing your voice with a whistle, either! And, when you have a child that is old enough to carry a gun, a Hunter-Safety Education Course is highly recommended!

If you are sick and have a fever, it is important to stay at home and follow your Dr.'s advice and take prescribed medications, drink plenty of fluids and obtain adequate rest. Normally a student should be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have a cough or sneeze, be sure to cover your nose and mouth, preferably directing the germs into your elbow instead of toward your neighbor. And remember; frequent hand washing is a must.

Earlier during the first nine weeks, visits were made to many classrooms to learn the "Cough and Sneeze" song with discussions about when it's important to wash your hands. We also touched briefly on the topic of taking good care of your teeth! Many of our elementary students enjoy the benefits of our fluoride program on a weekly basis during the school year since our rural water supplies are usually non-fluoridated. Small amounts of fluoride on a regular basis have proven beneficial for developing and maintaining healthy teeth. After a certain age, fluoridated tooth paste is still recommended through adulthood.

Franklin Pierce was the first United States' president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree.

With colder weather, most of us have begun using some form of heat, and whether it be a wood stove or some form of forced air furnace, the humidity tends to go down even more and the dry air that results could cause an increase in nose bleeds for some family members! If you begin having this problem, try using some simple measures to help alleviate the problem such as: Increase the moisture in the home by use of humidifiers (be sure to follow directions for safe use) and some furnaces actually have humidifiers on them, but need regular maintenance to make certain they are operating efficiently; use of an Over-the-Counter saline nasal spray that can be used as often as necessary to help moisturize the mucus membranes can also be beneficial in preventing nose bleeds. If the nose-bleed problem persists, it would be wise to consult your Health Care Provider for further suggestions and treatment.

Don't forget that exercise and fresh air are still important in colder weather when possible, and if you maintain good health practices, dress according to the weather, plan your activities accordingly, you can have some amazing "Family Fun Times."

Grade 5-7 Science

We've had a good term in Science at Millboro this first term. I am pleased with the progress the students have made.

The fifth graders have been studying life science. We learned about kingdoms of living things, how living things are classified and how to make a key. They did two dynamite projects on cells and flowers and have done a great job. We are beginning a unit on measuring.

The sixth grade have spent most of their time studying everything there is to

Mistletoe, a traditional Christmas symbol, was once revered by early Britons. It was so sacred that it had to be cut with a golden sickle!

know about water, including physical properties, conservation, uses, streams and oceans. We are also beginning a

unit on measuring in Metric and English.

Grade seven has covered several topics; the chemicals that make up living things, nutrients, how cells are made and what they do and how DNA works. We are currently studying genetics.

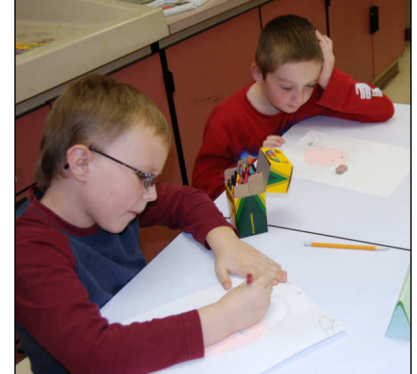
All-in-all it has been a great first nine weeks.



Art Education

Students have created many fantastic looking projects the last nine weeks. They have been creating beautiful fall drawings. Kindergarten created leaf rubbings by rubbing crayons and adding a watercolor wash. First through second grade drew leaves and added oil pastels. Additionally, they added a blue watercolor wash in the background. Third grade through fourth grade drew leaves and added oil pastels. They mixed their own watercolor washes for the background. Students in fifth through seventh grade are drawing leaves, but will later add watercolor to the leaves. Furthermore, the students in kindergarten through second grade drew self-portraits using paint and crayons. Third through sixth grade created yearbook cover designs that displayed school spirit.

Third through seventh grade will be creating self portraits using paint. Students will be focusing on mixing color for this project. Students will start to learn about other types of art forms such as clay and collage. A collage is a style of art project in which the student cuts or tears paper.



I have enjoyed creating these projects with your children and look forward to creating more artwork with them. Donations of newspaper and plastic containers are greatly appreciated.

From the Counselor's Desk

We have gotten off to a great start in guidance. Students have been busy exploring a variety of topics and developing new skills. Kindergarten and first grade have learned about school expectations and behaviors. They have also learned about making and keeping friends. Second and third grade have been exploring differences and learning to respect others. They have also been developing skills to deal effectively with bullying. Friendship has been a focus for

fourth grade. They are also learning to respect differences, opinions, and feelings. Fifth grade has been working on relationship skills. They have learned about assertiveness, good communication, and conflict resolution. Sixth grade has been "swapping shoes" as they learn to develop empathy for others. Seventh grade began the school year by exploring career possibilities. Both 6th and 7th graders are learning about internet safety. The students have been working

very hard to improve their character and develop new skills. I am looking forward to the next nine weeks!

The poinsettia, traditionally an American Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico where it was known as the "Flower of the Holy Night". It was first brought to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.



Santa Claus is Coming to Millboro Elementary School

On Saturday, December 11th, Santa Claus will be making a visit to Millboro Elementary School. He's asking all good boys and girls to come and eat breakfast with him from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, coffee and orange juice. Come share your Christmas wishes, sit on his lap, and give him your list of presents.

Tickets will begin being sold on Monday, November 15th. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults (grade 8 and above) and \$4.00 for students (grade 7 and below). How about taking home a memento with you. Have your picture taken with Santa Claus for only \$1.00 more.





Title I

It's been a great year of reading so far in Title I classes! Kindergarteners are mastering their letters, sorting by beginning sounds, retelling stories, making books to read and singing phonemic awareness songs. They especially loved the Halloween songs and guessing the words by adding the correct beginning



sound. First graders have been working on pointing to words in songs, poems and books while they read, and are really showing improvement. They also like using the spinner and other games to read words on their word wall. Charles just finished writing his own book about carving a pumpkin. In second grade, students have been reading paired fiction and non-fiction books. Their favorite was about sea turtles. They wrote letters to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, and are anxiously awaiting a reply. Third graders are improving fluency and comprehension skills by reading chapter books. Of course they also performed the Christopher Columbus reader's theater while studying about him in social studies. Taylor, Damon and Tyler are shown in character. Comprehension strategies are the focus

for fourth grade. They have been learning to use sticky notes to keep track of their thinking, and are making text to self and text to text connections. Currently they are reading a book about Jamestown.

October was full of reading celebrations at MES! We helped to set the world record again by reading together *A Snowy Day* on Read for the Record Day early in the month. During Read Aloud to a Child Week, parents read at home to their children, and students enjoyed hearing biographies read by our guest readers, Betsy Ross (Jane Wright) and Thomas Edison (Joey Crawford). We were all treated to a wonderful evening of magical storytelling by Mark Daniel on our Family Reading Night! The upcoming holidays provide a great opportunity to make fun reading memories with your children at home!!

Library News

A big thank you to all students and parents for patronizing our Fall Book Fair. In my twenty plus years working with Book Fairs, I do not recall such a large and varied selection of books. Another big thank you goes out to Mr. Joey Altizer and his Wood Shop students at Bath County High School. Mr. Altizer has been making repairs to the library chairs. Over the past few weeks primary students have been reading many fall stories. They include: Preschool, *I'm A Turkey*, *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* and *The Spooky Wheels on the Bus*. Kindergarten students enjoyed *Jeb Scarecrow's Pumpkin Patch*, *Scarecrow*, and *Library Mouse*. First grade students studied the many words of author/illustrator Eric Carle. He has many, as he calls them, gimmicks in his books. Many, like the *Very Quiet Cricket* and *Dream Snow* have sound and others, such as the *Very Busy Fireflies* have twinkling lights. Second grade students finished comparing the Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle stories and started recognizing the order of books in the easy and fiction sections of the library. We are currently reading *Peanut-Butter Pilgrims* a Pee-Wee Scout book by Judy Delton. Third grade finished reading *Frindle* and were amazed to find out that Mrs. Granger was rooting for the word all along. What word? What's a frindle? Ask a third grade student! Fourth and fifth grade students are continuing to read the Virginia Reader's Choice book *Gollywhopper Games*. Our main character, Gil, has certainly had to put up with a lot. After all he has been through, will he win? Will he give in to all of the pressure and quit? We hope to find out soon! Sixth and seventh grade students are continuing to read Virginia Reader's Choice *The Underneath*. Will Puck be able to find his way back to Ranger and Sabine? Will he be able to keep his promise to his mother and free Ranger? Will Gar Face catch the alligator? Will Grandmother Moccasin get her revenge?

Physical Education

The first nine weeks of the semester have been extremely busy for the PE Department. Grades 4-9 completed the fall testing for the physical fitness test and have been involved with Mary Adderton and the Tobacco Prevention Program for the last six weeks, along with the third grade.

The PGA First Tee golf program was with us for two weeks working with grades 4-7 and equipment was provided for Pre-school-3rd grade for golf instruction and introduction during that time. First Tee will be back in the spring to work with the

students for two additional weeks.

Preschool -3rd grade took a break from activity before Halloween and students decorated pumpkins in the gym. It was a very enjoyable experience for all involved and we had some wild looking pumpkins.

Students in grades K-5 have been participating in the Get Active/Get Fit program sponsored by the Department of Education. The students had check off calendars for physical activity for two months every day of the week. The students are competing as a school district

with VES to win a Radio Disney dance party.

Theodore Roosevelt, a staunch conservationist, banned Christmas trees in his home and even the White House. His children, however, smuggled them into their bedrooms!

All students will be competing in setting the Guinness Record for speed stacking before the holiday.

After the Thanksgiving break we will begin our basketball unit.



Christmas Word Search

O B E A Y H A R E E S P G L R T
 F R Q N G L E T O B A R N R V I
 C W N I A I I T N Y M E I U S N
 M O E A N C E M E A T S F D T S
 Y L O D M L Y N A U S E F O H E
 S L E K T E M D R F I N U L G L
 O E L S I I N K N U R T T P I C
 R U I O H E E T T A H S S H L A
 F M H C H Y S S T O C K I N G S
 S E I R R E B N A R C S E V L E

On the Lighter Side....



What do snowmen eat for lunch? **Icebergers**



How do you know when there is a snowman in your bed? **You wake up wet!**



What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark? **Frost bite!**



How do you call an Eskimo cow? **An Eskimoo**



What would a reindeer do if it lost its tail? **It would go to a "retail" shop for a new one**



Why does Scrooge love all of the reindeer? **Because every buck is deer to him!**



Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? **Rude-olph**



What do you call a reindeer wearing ear muffs? **Anything you want because he can't hear you!**



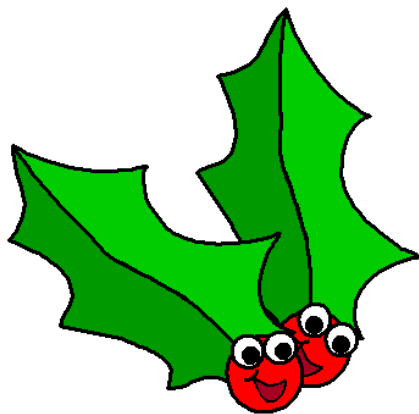
Who sings "Blue Christmas" and makes toy guitars? **Elvis**



What's red and white and gives presents to gazelles? **Santelope**



Why do reindeer wear fur coats? **Because they look silly in snowsuits**



candycane
 chimney
 Christmas
 cookies
 cranberries
 elves
 family
 holly
 lights
 mistletoe

ornament
 presents
 reindeer
 Rudolph
 Santa
 sleigh
 stockings
 stuffing
 tinsel
 turkey

Animal Crackers are not really crackers, but cookies that were imported from England in the late 1800s. Barnum's circus-like boxes were designed with a string handle so that they could be hung on a Christmas tree.



Ingredients

Vanilla wafer cookies
 Peanut butter
 White chocolate chips
 Candy sprinkles
 Licorice whips
 M&M Candies
 M&M mini candies
 Fruit roll ups
 Cake decorating gel
 Ice cream sticks

Fun Winter Cookie Pops

- 1) Spread peanut butter on one wafer and place ice cream stick on top. Place the remaining wafer on top to make a sandwich.
- 2) Melt chocolate chips in microwave, one minute, then in 20 second increments until smooth.
- 3) Dip cookie pops in the melted chips, covering completely. Roll pops in red and green sprinkles and lay on wax paper.

For variations, use the ingredients to make snowmen, Santa Clauses or wreaths. Use the decorating gel to make the snowman's eyes, nose, and mouth. Use the M&M's to make the ear muffs. (Hint: Use food coloring to change the color of your chocolate or you can use cake frosting instead of peanut butter.)

Grade 6/7 Reading & Language Arts

Looks like I am here to stay

Second nine weeks well underway.

We have explored poems of color and sculptures of junk art.

Personifications, metaphors, similes, figurative language
we tore apart.

With antonyms, synonyms and homophones
analogies we play.

Awesome science fiction with Ray Bradbury's
All Summer in a Day.

A time on Venus in which the sun came out for just one hour,

Reminded the fragile girl of a yellow flower.

The theme of the fiction straight forward and true,
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Let us not forget the Junior Great story of Spit.

The kid with one lung, on a homemade trolley
he did sit.

Lads cheering him on as he flew down the street,
stopped dead in his tracks by a bus
he did meet.

An external conflict he could not defeat.

The climax of this story came right at the end

As all of the lads dealt with the internal conflict
of losing a friend.

What about Thank You M'am, by Langston Hughes,
a story of compassion,
starting with blue suede shoes.

The young boy attacked the elderly lady and lost his stance
She laid him out and kicked him in his blue-jean pants.
He wanted to steal.

Luella Bates Washington Jones offered him firm kindness
and a hot meal.

A story with clear cause and effect,
show kindness and in return gain respect.

I hope we learn from what we read
As I choose the stories carefully.

Ask your kids about brain gym and reading stamina too,
Practice these at home, see how well the family can do.

Second Grade

This nine weeks was an adventure as we learned more about our surroundings. We learned about living in a city and rural area and their differences. We learned about the different landforms in the United States and made models of them. We can locate many areas of interest in the United States and made a movie using our flip video camera. This is used as a teaching tool to remind us throughout the year of the things we are studying in the United States.

We studied famous people like Johnny Appleseed, George Washington Carver and Christopher Columbus. We did plays and songs about these people.

We also learned about the 5 oceans and the 7 Continents. We learned a little about each continent and the animals



and plant life that are in each continent. Indians will be our focus the Second Nine Weeks. We have Woodland Indians,

Southwest Indians and the Lakota Indians which are the Plains Indians. We will learn all about their life.

In Science we had a female and male monarch come out. We took apart plants and saw their parts. We looked at different apples and saw their likes and differences. We then tasted them to see which one our class liked best. We are presently studying the ocean. We enjoyed watching mini clips of the animals. It seems like we are really there. Did you know an Octopus changes his color to red when he is mad? We like looking at the various shells in our classroom and learning more about them. We will then move our study in to Magnets and The Body.

In Math we focused mostly on addition. We want to be real proficient before we start subtraction. We are adding and regrouping, estimating sums, adding 3 digit numbers. We will move on to money using quarters and we will tell time to the 5 minute intervals. Please practice these skills with your child. We are hoping to be able to count money so we can get presents for our friends and tell time so Santa can get us watches. We will have a mock store in our classroom.

Reading is always fun! We read many

stories about ocean animals, farms, cities, Johnny Appleseed, Christopher Columbus. We worked on summarizing, sequencing, story maps, Venn diagrams writing biographies and more.

We will be reading Chapter Books for this Thanksgiving Season. We will do Thanksgiving plays and learn about Indians. We will have a feast to celebrate. You will receive more detail at a later date.

One of the highlights of this nine weeks was our field trip. We had to battle the rain but it was still fun to see the Indian



house and learn how they made their tools back then. We enjoyed seeing the Wax Museum and Toy Museum. We loved seeing the Natural Bridge. It was beautiful.