

THIRD NINE WEEKS CALENDAR

- \* Bookmobile visits the 1st Thursday of each month from 3-4:30 p.m.
- \* Feb. 9th will be our MES Spelling Bee at 2 p.m.
- \* Feb. 16th is a Pupil Holiday. There is NO SCHOOL for students.
- \* Feb. 21st is the Division-Wide Spelling Bee. It will be at MES at 7 p.m.
- \* March 30th is the end of the 3rd marking period and an early release day at 12:30 p.m.
- \* April 6th report cards go home.
- \* April 7th Gr. 4 to Jamestown from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- \* April 22nd through 26th is Easter Break .
- \* April 29th Gr. 2 & 3 go to Amazement Square from 8:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# The Wildcat "News"

## MES GEOGRAPHY BEE PARTICIPANTS & WINNERS



Millboro Elementary School held their Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic on January 5, 2011. All of the students in fourth through seventh grades participated in the grade level competition. The top finishers in each grade competed at the school-wide competition. Those finishers were Tyler Bryant, Joley McLain, Nathan Lotts, Maggie Hyler, Justin Smiley, Molly Watkins, Leo Huffman, Brianna Negrete, Aimee Brinkley, and Jennifer Arline. The students answered questions relating to physical and cultural geography. Brianna Negrete won the 2011 Millboro Elementary School Geography Bee. Molly Watkins won second place and Leo Huffman won third place. Congratulations to all of the Geography Bee participants!

## WHAT'S NEW IN OUR CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is now offering Chef Salads for the students at a cost of \$1.50. Salad, bread and fruit would be considered a lunch. If a student wants

the Chef Salad in addition to their lunch, a \$1.50 will be added to their meal.

We hope to have a regular salad available for students also, as an exchange for the vegetable being offered with the

lunch. If a student wished to purchase a regular salad, when it's available, the cost of this will be \$1.10.



## Box Tops for Education

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Brunner	151	13	104	66	334
Armstrong	402	21	22	7	452
Whitson	275	40	70	1	386
Heppler	120	4	112	23	259
Madison	550	150	150	150	1000
Manion	212	85	78	29	404
Crawford	13	263	63	15	354
Hardbarger	84	1	12	16	113
Lee	3	28	0	102	133
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>3435</b>

## SANTA CLAUS VISITS MES

Santa Claus paid a visit to Millboro Elementary School on Saturday, December 11th. Over 60 people enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes and sausage as well as the time-honored tradition of telling Santa what children wanted for Christmas. Each child received a goodie bag filled with holiday trinkets and candy.



## KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten class was very busy during the month of December making Christmas ornaments for our class tree. We made bells, angels and ornaments out of pie tins. They loved making these and used lots of glitter.

They also wrapped pretend presents to go under our tree. Many thanks to the parents for sending in wrapping paper, bows, tape and tags. The students did a great job with this project. We also made a special Christmas snack with pretzels, candy kisses and m & m's. They were

delicious and enjoyed by all of us.

During the month of January, we will study winter weather and winter animals. We will discuss which animals can stay out in the winter and those that have to hibernate. We will also make bird feeders for the birds that can survive the winter months. The children know that once they start feeding the birds they must continue for the birds will return to their homes looking for food.

We will also begin our study of fa-

mous Americans starting with Martin Luther King in January. We will also study Abraham Lincoln and George Washington in February. We will also talk about our state flag and facts about Virginia. We plan to put many pictures on the front of our folder of things we have learned in history during these months. Please have your children share facts about each picture. You will be amazed at how much they have learned. I am very proud of their efforts.

## Mother Goose Time

Join the Bath County Public Library every Thursday at 10:30 am for stories, songs, rhymes, and play for children up to 3 years old and their caregivers. Exposure to early literacy results in a happy and stimulating environment for your child, and research shows that babies benefit from lots of exposure to stories and activity play. These nursery rhymes stimulate the brain development at a very crucial time in your child's development.

## FIRST GRADE

First Grade is all about learning to become a GREAT READER. For that reason, the children have been working really, really hard to meet that goal before the end of the year. Not only do the children read their books in class, they also share their books daily with a partner during what we call 'Book Buddy Time'. Before sharing their books with a 'book buddy', they must become an expert in reading their books. One way of accomplishing that objective is by taking their books home for homework so they can practice them nightly. Before long, they will have become an 'expert' with their books and will then begin sharing them during Book Buddy Time. To make sure their 'buddy' was listening to their reading, the reader will ask a couple of questions about what they read. The listener should be able to answer the questions. After sharing their books with several buddies, they then TRADE their books for new ones during Book Trading Time and the process begins again. The children absolutely love being able to share.



Another way of helping the children become that GREAT READER is by learning their daily sight words. (Those words that just can't be sounded out.) The children take their sight word cards home for homework to practice as well. When they have completed one level with 100% accuracy, they receive an award and then move on to the next level. First graders have 3 – 5 levels that they should master. The more levels mastered; the more it helps them become a successful reader. As you can see in the picture, Forrest is one of the many students who have already completed the 'yellow' level.

Along with all the hard work in reading, the children worked really hard right before Christmas to make a 2011 Calendar for their parents.

Each student used their own precious picture, along with the Wildcat mascot, as the background. In doing so, they learned more about what encompasses a year: the number of months in a year, the number of days in a month, where a month begins and why the next month starts where it does, and many more calendar concepts. The next time you visit a first grader's home, ask to see their calendar. They are to be cherished!

This next nine weeks will be even more hectic. We will push on to meet our goal of becoming that GREAT READER and becoming a more proficient mathematician. With all the important holidays coming up, we will also be learning more about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and President's Day.



## SECOND GRADE

One of the highlights of the nine weeks was our Thanksgiving feast. The students were not happy when they followed the Pilgrim tradition of eating without talking and eating standing up. We also used shells to eat with like the Indians. After a little while we ate like our own tradition. We were talking, laughing and enjoying our class family. Thanks to all parents who helped with the feast. We then went



on to perform our Thanksgiving Play We Give Thanks.

Indians has been a big part of our study. We studied the Woodland, Plains and Southwest Indians.

We are making a flip video of the three Indians groups. You may see that on our website soon. We also enjoyed reading

stories like The Indian Paintbrush, Mud Pony, Buffalo's at Breakfast and many more.

Stop by our room to see our pottery, weavings and sand paintings.

We have enjoyed writing winter poetry during the nine weeks. You will receive a Literacy book made by our Second and Third Graders.

We had a new student join us, Carson Stephens. Carson came from Reidsville, North Carolina. Welcome Carson!

In Math we are working on money, time, word problems and subtraction with regrouping. Please review vocabulary, plus, minus, difference, subtraction, how many more, how many left, altogether, with your child.

In Science we did many experiments with magnets. Can magnets go through paper, foil, wood, plastic or water? Ask a Second grader he can tell you. The students then created their own magnetic game. We had football fields, hockey fields, monster truck stadium, bug forest, and cars.

Snow experiments would be fun on a



snowy day. How long will it take snowflakes to make an inch?

Bring in a snowball and watch how long it will take it to melt.

In Language

Arts we are working on long vowels. Have your students find or cut out long vowel words with the following patterns: Long A – ay ai eigh a-e, Long e ee ea, Long I igh i-e ie y Long o oa o-e, ow o Long U oo ew u-e ue. Students need to remember what letters make that pattern and be able to find the pattern in a word.

We worked on antonyms and synonyms. We will be working on homophones soon.

The students have really been working hard. They are showing improvement in many areas. Keep it up!

The students enjoyed learning about China. Thanks to the Children's Art Council for such a wonderful program and for the parent volunteers who helped.

## FIFTH GRADE READING & 5-7 SOCIAL STUDIES

The forecast is in and this year shows no sign of slowing down! Despite how fast the year is going, fifth grade is getting a lot done! We finished *Maniac Magee* and boy was I right, they loved the Butterscotch Krimpets! We watched the made-for-tv movie of *Maniac*, too, and talk about surprised. They couldn't believe how totally different the two were. We moved into nonfiction after *Maniac Magee* and read a book called *Orphan Train Rider* that the kids really enjoyed. It's about a boy their age who rode the orphan trains during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with his brothers until finally finding a home with a loving family. They also watched a movie about orphan trains. It was fun to hear them compare the book to what they saw in the movie.

We're moving right along in history, too. I think (or at least hope) things have gotten more interesting for everyone. We've moved out of exploration and into colonization and

are in the middle of Revolution now. I can't wait to take them to D.C. when they're in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and they can actually see the document that changed this country and world forever, the Declaration of Independence. We'll be discussing the US Constitution soon, which they'll also get to see in just two short years!

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 learned about the "Captains of Industry" who helped shape this nation as well as the Spanish-American War and World War I. Wow! I

didn't realize how much we'd covered since my last newsletter. We're on a roll and the time shows no signs of stopping, so "Roaring 20s" here we come!

Seventh graders, in Civics and Economics, have really impressed lately! I love their interest in our laws and how government works. If some of that enthusiasm could be shared with all the content they *have* to know, we'd be golden! After learning about the three branches, we moved right along into how those branches share power and how checks and balances work. We learned how laws are made and talked about that crazy Electoral College! Up next is local government. I have a fun project for them, too, about *our* local government. Yes, I said fun and project in the same sentence! Until next time...

## THIRD GRADE

Another 9 weeks has gone by in a flash! Early in the 9 weeks the Children's Art Network presented a program on Ancient Rome. We participated in making a bulla, a Roman numeral clock, and knuckle bones. Each of us attempted to make an archway out of blocks with several actually completing the arch.

Our field trip to the Frontier Culture Museum was fun. We visited an African village and the American Farm with a one room schoolhouse. We were busy at each place participating in activities. We dug for yams in Africa, fixed the school masters breakfast in America, and worked on math at the schoolhouse. Our schoolmaster reminded us of our very own Mr. Crawford!

Both RTI groups presented a play. One group presented Tom Turkey and the other group presented The Little Red Hen.

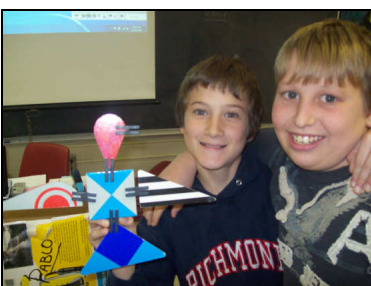
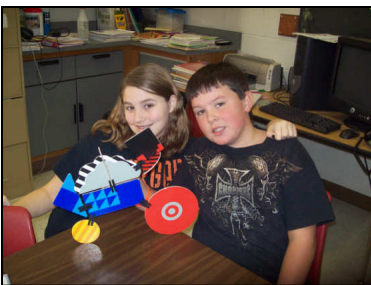
We are proud that our class had 100% participation in the Christmas program. We enjoyed our free ice cream provided

by the CFE. The school also passed the goal of 150 canned goods for the Christmas Mother Program and are eagerly awaiting the popcorn party.

Each of us has earned 2 Red Robin certificates and 3 Pizza Hut certificates for reading. Don't forget the Pizza Hut certificates do have an expiration date of one month on them!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks will be filled up busy in math with multiplication, fractions, and geometrical shapes. Science time will include simple machines, water cycle, and weather. The Civil War, Abe Lincoln, immigration and economics are topics of study in Social Studies. We will continue to read in chapter books and leveled reader books, write stories, and learn how to spell more words.

If you haven't had a chance to check out the pictures of the activities we've done, please check Mrs. Madison's website. We are so photogenic!!!



## GRADE 6-7 READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

How many years could you survive on an island without human contact? The sixth grade has been reading about the day-to-day adventures of Karana, the main character of Scott O'Dell's Island of the Blue Dolphins. At a young age she was left on the island and had to survive on her own. Through the novel we are working on comprehension, context clues, elements of the plot and vocabulary. As we near the completion of the novel study we will explore and create cave art similar to the art that Karana found on the island. We will research the animals that became her companions and the Pacific storms that became her enemy. Each student will provide a personal narrative about a time of adventure he/she has experienced.

Speaking of experience, what do the author O'Henry and the singer/songwriter Alanis Morissette have in common? Irony. Both writers provide works with excellent examples of irony, which the seventh graders have been analyzing. In O'Henry's "The Reformer" a skilled safe thief came clean only to be forced to reveal his past by using his skills to save a child locked in the safe. We also read O'Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," a wonderful Christmas story of great love and irony. The students really enjoyed listening to the examples of irony in Alanis Morissette's song "Ironic." We are working on the parts of speech and the students will soon be exposed to "School House Rock." Over the next few weeks the students will become the authors. We

will work on persuasive writing. Should we have school uniforms? Should students have cell phones? Should students be able to wear the rebel flag?

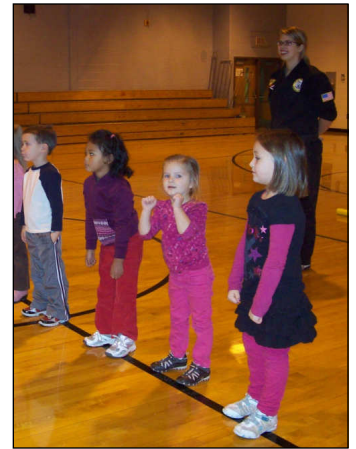
Both sixth and seventh created their own versions of sculpture after reading about a Vietnam Veteran/Art teacher in the story "Zebra." We all got a small taste of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. I hope to continue to use this story for vocabulary, character development and character traits. We will be reading a memoir by Nelson Mandela to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. Furthermore, we are going to tackle the book 100 Words Every Middle School Student Should Know, ten words at a time.



## AMERICAN FREESTYLE KARATE PRESENTS PROGRAM

American Freestyle Karate staff led an exciting program for Millboro Elementary students in the gym on December 15<sup>th</sup>. David Clements and Ruth Campagna guided the students through their Leadership Life Skills Workshop, which focuses on respect for others and themselves, confidence and self-discipline. With parent permission, students were allowed to participate by learning some very basic steps of karate. The instruction was filled with examples of how the students could apply respect and self-control in their everyday life. They specifically demonstrated strategies for anger management, self-defense, and stranger danger. The students also learned three ways to show respect: 1) Give eye contact 2) Reply "Yes, Sir/Ma'am or No, Sir/Ma'am and 3) Obey the rules. Stu-

dents and staff enjoyed the very positive and motivating class. More information about classes offered can be found at [www.afklexington.com](http://www.afklexington.com).



## GUIDANCE

We have been very busy the past nine weeks in guidance. Students have been learning about a variety of topics and improving their skills. In Kindergarten, we talked about positive and negative behaviors. We learned that all our choices are followed by a consequence, either good or bad. We are working to think before we act. First grade worked

on recognizing and respecting differences. We also focused on appreciating our own unique qualities. Second grade practiced conflict resolution skills. We also discussed the importance of honesty. Respecting yourself and others, making and keeping friends, and anger management were the focus for third and fourth grade. Fifth and sixth grade have been

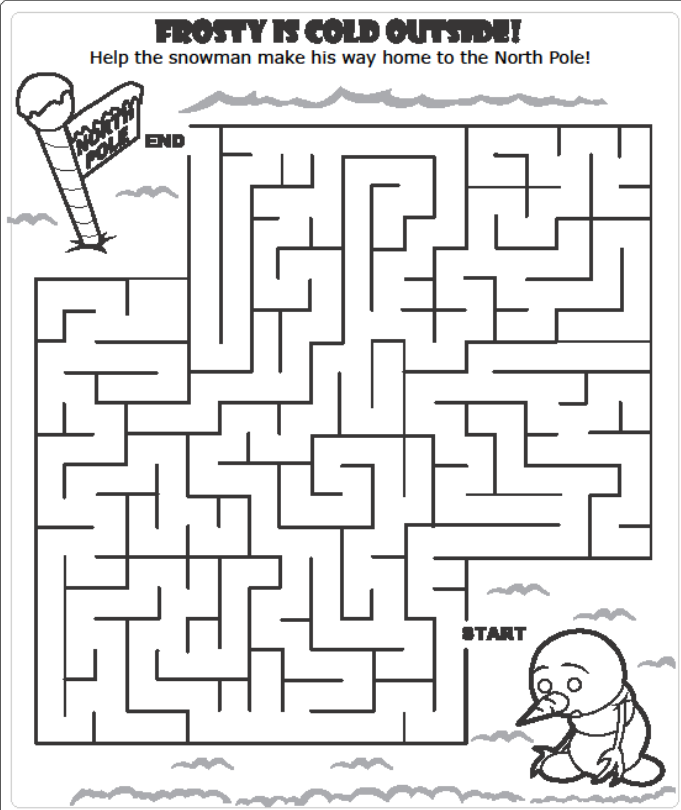
working to improve communication, conflict resolution, and study skills. Seventh grade focused on drug and alcohol prevention. Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh grade also learned about internet safety. As you can see, our students have been busy. Let's keep up the good work!

## MES STUDENTS CELEBRATE VA HEALTHY YOUTH DAY

The Virginia General Assembly made a resolution that every Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> will be VA Healthy Youth Day. The purpose of the day was to celebrate healthy lifestyles for Virginia's children which includes eating right, exercising and not using tobacco products. Physical activity and outdoor exercise aren't just for sunny, summer days. Virginia Healthy Youth Day reminds us that being physically fit and healthy should be a year round endeavor for Virginia youth. On January 20<sup>th</sup> the

students in grades 3-5 from Millboro and Valley participated in a variety of physical exercises in celebration of this day. They also enjoyed a healthy snack.





# Valentine's Day Matching-Game

**Instructions -**  
Try to accurately match the answers given on the right to their correct counterparts provided on the left depending on their similarity. You gain a point for each correct match. Anything above 5 points is good, but we would be pleased if you manage to score a perfect ten in this matching game.

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1) The month when Valentine's Day is observed                       | A. Dublin                   |
| 2) The supposed profession of Saint Valentine                       | B. 'Friend's Day'           |
| 3) Valentine's Day is also humorously called                        | C. Geoffrey Chaucer         |
| 4) As an item, the word 'Valentine' refers to                       | D. Cupid                    |
| 5) Saint Valentine was executed by this Roman emperor               | E. The daughter of a jailer |
| 6) Valentine's Day is known in Finland as 'Ystävänpäivä' meaning    | F. Priesthood               |
| 7) The popular winged figure serving as a symbol of Valentine's Day | G. Love Notes               |
| 8) The relics of St. Valentine are at this place in Ireland         | H. February                 |
| 9) Before dying, St. Valentine sent a special message to            | I. Claudius II              |
| 10) He mentioned Valentine's Day in his 'Parlement of Foules'       | J. 'Single's Awareness Day' |



- |           |        |           |
|-----------|--------|-----------|
| ARCTIC    | FREEZE | SHOVEL    |
| BLIZZARD  | FROST  | SLED      |
| BOOTS     | GLOVE  | SNOWFLAKE |
| COLD      | ICICLE | SNOWMAN   |
| FIREPLACE | SCARF  | SWEATER   |



## Valentine Day Jokes

- 1) What did the bunny say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- Some bunny loves you.
- 2) What did the kitty say to her boyfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- You're my purr-fect Valentine.
- 3) What did the elephant say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- I love you a ton.
- 4) What did the squirrel say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- I'm nuts about you.
- 5) What did the bear say to her boyfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- I love you bear-y much.
- 6) What did the owl say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?  
- Owl be yours.
- 7) What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?  
- I'm stuck on you.



**Imagine never owning a book... we can't either.**

RIF and NESTLÉ are teaming up to give books to the kids who need them most.

**LOOK** Find this logo on specially marked bags of NESTLÉ and WONKA candy.

**EARN** Enter your codes online to earn money for RIF. Nestlé will donate up to \$250,000.

**WIN** Submit codes for a chance at \$10 instantly and be entered into a monthly drawing for a chance to win \$5,000.

Visit [CelebrationCorner.com/RIF](http://CelebrationCorner.com/RIF)

**Have you:**

- had a change in your family numbers?
- had a job loss?
- had a change in income?

If so, you may qualify for additional Federal Lunch Program benefits. If you believe you qualify, simply ask for an Free/Reduced Lunch Application and submit. See the principal for more information!



Please remember to keep collecting those My Coke Rewards codes and submitting them to the school. The school is able to turn those codes into much needed supplies. If you already have a My Coke Rewards account, you can donate them to the school simply by selecting the "Donate to a School" button on their website.

## FOURTH GRADE

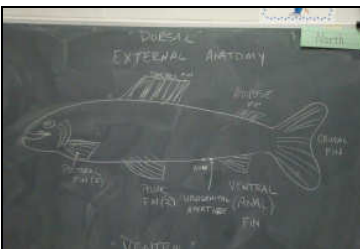


During the second nine weeks, fourth grade reviewed how to estimate answers to addition and subtraction problems. Then we carried estimation into multiplication where we spent the majority of our math time. Please continue to study your basic multiplication facts. They will continue to be used as we move on into division and fractions. If we have enough school time, then we might start some geometry the third nine weeks but our focus will be on division and fractions. We will continue as we did the second nine weeks working on word problems.



weeks, we are preparing to create the United States. After we create the United States, we will study the parts Virginians played in the early years of the United States. Then we'll quickly brush over most of the 1800s as we hit the Civil War in Virginia.

Students studied nouns and verbs the second nine weeks. We will study adjectives and adverbs the third nine weeks. We will also be working on non-fiction writing. The students enjoyed creating fictional stories during the second nine weeks. They also enjoyed writing their pen pals even though they want to communicate by other means. We will continue to write our pen pals.



Students spent the second nine weeks in colonial Virginia. We studied how the Virginia economy depended on agriculture specifically tobacco. It also led to a dependence on slavery for cheap labor. We studied how the colonies slowly drew farther apart from Great Britain until we had the American Revolution at the end of the second nine weeks. At the start of the third nine

Students read realistic fiction books the second nine weeks. We read aloud part of a historical fiction book, Red Thunder on the American Revolution. We will read more historical fiction in the third nine weeks along with nonfiction pieces. Students need to continue to read at home daily.



Christine Hodges came in again to work with the students on identifying trees native to Virginia. Students worked on putting together their own journal. They also identified things that come from trees along with what part of the tree the item originates. Ranger Beth Hawse from Douthat State Park came and assisted with our trout dissection. She also helped students work on note taking skills and learning the parts of a trout along with information about their habitat. She also brought in the Enviro-Scape to demonstrate to students point source and non point source pollution. We studied weather the second nine weeks in science. Students are still working on learning the parts of an experiment and how to conduct them. We will be starting to study the planet, Earth, and outer space the third nine weeks. Depending on the weather, we might get to electricity and energy but that might not happen until the fourth nine weeks.

## GRADE 5-7 SCIENCE

We are approaching the most fun and challenging part of Science classes; the Quest Project. Every year fifth, sixth and seventh grade students get the opportunity to do a project of their choosing, and they are rewarded by earning points. These points may be used in place of a spring research paper (200 points) and some can count as the last big test for the year (100+ points). Students must answer some type of question they come up with or solve a problem they invent. We begin the process by discussing the Scientific Method and I help them come up with an idea (all projects must be approved before beginning). Displays of projects will be brought to school sometime in April or May and displayed for all students to learn from. **NOTE: QUEST IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. THE STUDENT HAS THE OPTION TO DO A FORMAL RESEARCH PAPER WITH REFERENCES, ETC., AND TAKE THE LAST BIG TEST. HOWEVER, QUEST ALMOST ALWAYS IMPROVES GRADES AND GIVES THE STUDENT A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.**

Here are a few tips:

- 1) Do not let your student "rush into" a project. They will be done in a step-by-step method with two or three different deadlines.
- 2) The student actually has to follow the scientific method. Come up with a question (Exs. Can students tell the difference between brand name foods and generic foods?; Does loud music effect a student's ability to study?)
- 3) The student must research his topic (deadline), write a detailed plan on how he plans to prove his hypothesis (deadline), perform his experiments and prepare a display, which must follow the steps of the Scientific Method.

What won't work: A bunch of reports on a topic are a research paper; not a Quest Project. A model of something (alone) is an art project. To get the maximum number of points, the student actually has to follow the Scientific Method and do all the steps involved.

How will the Quest be graded? Here is a basic outline on grading, based on a % scale (final percent will be multiplied to get total points)

- 1) Copies of research on topic (up to 5 pages of notes; doesn't have to be formal)- 10%
- 2) Detailed plan for testing hypothesis- 10%
- 3) Overall amount of work shown on project, including display- 20%
- 4) Data (graphs and charts) on display- 20%
- 5) Following the Scientific Method on display- 20%
- 6) General appearance and following of rules on display- 20%

Important note: Since there will be deadlines on this project, it is important for students to meet them. Not meeting a deadline will cancel the student's project and he will revert to a research project and final test. Quest project will begin sometime in February! Science boards are available for sale in the school office at a cost of \$3 each.



## PRESCHOOL

Hippopotamus' became our theme/slogan for preschool during the month of December!

Sounds a bit strange, but doesn't everyone want a Hippopotamus for Christmas? Our hippo celebration included a Family Fun event for our families to share. We sang Hippo songs, danced Hippo dances, played Hippo games and enjoyed healthy Hippo snacks prepared by Chef Brunner (Mrs. Brunner's husband!) In the classroom we also made Hippo "gifts" for Christmas. We had a Hippo-rendous good time!

Here are a few thoughts from our preschoolers about Hippos:

Dustin: "I seen hipt'apotamus at the hippo-show!"

Hunter: "They really do eat vegetables!!" ("Teacher said a hippo is a vegetarian")

Presley: "Hippos swim in a pool- about 4 feet deep!"

Lindsay: "They eat peanuts."

Madison: "If you see a hippo you see peanuts. If you see peanuts you eat peanuts!"

Nickolas: Mrs. Altizer asked what he wanted for Christmas and he looked at her very seriously and said "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas!"

As you can see, our preschoolers learned a wealth of information during our hippopotamus unit!

We have been learning about "good foods," and this seemed to be the perfect time to take an in-school field trip to our school cafeteria! We were welcomed into the kitchen by our talented cooks. They were busy preparing potato soup for lunch. We saw the biggest pot of soup ever. We visited the storage area, the BIG freezers- BRRR- and the dish washing room- HOT...HOT...HOT. These 3 ladies have a lot of chores to do to get our delicious meals ready. Thank-you to Ms. Cass, Ms.

Joyce, and Ms. Christie, for showing us all about the cafeteria. We sure learned a lot.

Did you notice our toboggans in our picture? We were wise little folks to dress appropriately for the freezer tour of the cafeteria!

This has been a time of new and old friendships here in preschool. We have said goodbye to Serenity and Cole. They had to move on to different preschool places! Somehow when one of our friends has to move on, another one magically arrives in preschool. Madison appeared in early December and quickly learned all about Preschool and now she's an 'ole timer! Have you ever stopped to think, that these children become friends in preschool at age 3 or 4? When these little folks graduate high school together, they will have known each other 15-16 years! Wow- that's forever in preschool time! Hopefully these friendships will go on to





# TITLE I

Winter is the perfect time for warm blankets, hot chocolate and good books! Title I students have been enjoying many different types of books this season. Kindergarteners have learned all of their letter names, and are having fun sorting pictures, learning sight words and reading and writing books. They just finished reading about a lizard, and used words from the story to create sentences and write their own sentence about lizards. First graders read about animals in the winter, and learned about which birds migrate for winter and which ones stay home. They read directions on making a bird feeder using a pine cone for those who winter at home. Paige-Lynn is pictured hanging her feeder in a tree outside of their classroom window so that they can watch the birds enjoy their treat. As

second graders study about Native American tribes, we are reading the book *A Mare for Young Wolf* to learn more about their customs and way of life. Third graders have finished their books about pioneer life, and have moved on to reading non-fiction books about animal habitats. They have chosen a habitat to write about, and will narrate their piece to create a digital story to share with their classmates. Fourth grade continues their march through Virginia history as we begin reading about a woman who disguised herself as a male soldier during the Revolutionary War in a book called *The Secret Soldier*. They are also just completing their personal narratives about a family Christmas story.

encourage literacy activities for our students. Upcoming reading events will include Read Across America Day in March, our Young Authors Celebration in April featuring author Alison Hart, and Children's Book Week celebration in May. Enjoy snuggling up with some good books this winter!!!



Millboro Elementary continues to

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The students at MES have been busy over the past nine weeks in physical education and health class. Grades K-5 competed in a statewide Get Fit/Get Active fitness program in which students charted their physical activity minutes in October and November. MES and VES were both winners of a Radio Disney Dance Party. The party will be held on Thurs., March 24 at 1 pm for MES students.

10 week tobacco prevention program "Too Good for Drugs" with Ms. Adderton. Virginia's Tobacco prevention program sponsored a Wellness Activity Day on Jan. 20 at VES. Students in grades 3-5 at both MES and VES were together for various physical activities in the gym and a healthy snack provided by Ms. Adderton.


Feb. Students will be coming home with the information and pledge sheets. In PE class students are working on basketball, volleyball and various eye-hand coordination skills. A winter practice tests for the Fitness Tests will be held in grades 4-7. Students will be able to compare fall and winter scores and see what areas they need to concentrate on for the final test in the spring. It is a busy time in the gym as we work toward physical fitness and wellness.

Students in grades 3-7 completed the

MES will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart in

~~~~~

## BAND



The fifth, sixth and seventh grade band members performed a fantastic Winter concert in Dec! Thanks to everyone for such great attendance!! All Area band auditions were held in November and we had several students put in lots of practice time in preparation! Congrats to John Heffler (trumpet)! He will represent MES at All Area Band on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at Rockbridge County High School! We had several others try out for the first time and they all were very close to making the ensemble! We had more students try out from MES and VES this year than ever before! Great job band students! Keep up the great work!!

~~~~~

## FROM THE CLINIC

We have been met with the realities of cold weather with the sub-freezing temperatures, snow, high winds and icy terrain to negotiate—yes, winter is here for sure!! Friendly reminders, that shouldn't be hard to adhere to follow: Dress warmly, get adequate rest, good nutrition and continue to drink plenty of fluids, especially fruit juices high in Vitamin C and good, old H<sub>2</sub>O (water)! And, yes, exercise is still an important part of the good health equation, even in the winter months, when most of us tend to be less active! Other preventive measures as we trudge through the cold and flu season continue to be frequent hand washing, whenever possible or the use of a hand sanitizer, along with cleaning surfaces with antibacterial wipes in areas vulnerable to contamination to prevent the spread of germs. And don't forget to cover those coughs and sneezes, along with the proper disposal of contaminated paper products used to control those "drippy" noses!!

Parents, if your child is sick with a fever, the child must be fever free, (non-medicated) for 24 hours before returning to school. A fever is considered to be a temperature of 100 degrees F., or greater, but if you have any questions, especially if your child is experiencing other symptoms of illness and a fever (or temperature elevation) is absent, follow your Health Care Provider's advice about school attendance. A fever indicates that the body's immune system is working to fight against the infection, but it can also be used to indicate when the infected person is most contagious, so adequate time to recuperate from illness along with proper medical attention are very important to assure complete recovery and prevent the spread of infection to others!

Parental vigilance concerning head lice is also helpful during the winter months, as the use of outer wear, including hats, scarves, etc., can contribute to an outbreak of head-lice when these items are shared. Absenteeism due to our school's "no-nit" policy, can interrupt the educational process, so checking your

child's head frequently, early treatment as needed, and notifying the school when an incident occurs, helps us to identify and prevent the spread of head lice in the school population!

Since we will be in the heating season pretty much full time for the next two months, some of our students could notice an increase in nose bleeds due to the dry air/decreased humidity. If this happens to someone in your household, the 1st and easiest line of defense is to increase the moisture in the home environment, which might be as simple as using a vaporizer. Be sure to follow all directions for safe use, and if nose bleeds become a chronic problem, consult your health care provider for other suggestions! As we continue into the 2nd half of our school year, some up-coming events of interest include the following:

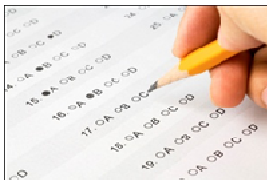
February is National Children's Dental Health Month and our local Dentist, Dr. Marty Diamond hopes to visit the Kindergarten classes at MES and VES to help promote good dental care. We will also have the program provided through our Delta Dental Health, to be made available for the Teachers to share at the Pre-school through 3rd grades. And we still have our DVD from the VA Dept. of Health as a resource to reinforce good oral hygiene, too!!

March is designated as Brain Injury Awareness Month: Last year's theme was, "A Concussion is a Brain Injury--Get the Facts!" and although at the time this News Letter will be published, this year's theme is not available, information about concussions is always helpful!! As we exit winter and enter spring, we will see an increase in outdoor activities. So whether your family participates in winter sports, or those more popular in the warmer months, it is always wise to wear the protective gear recommended for these activities, especially helmets designated to protect one from more serious injuries such as a concussion! If someone in your family sustains a head injury

caused by a blow or jolt to the head, it is wise to seek medical attention, especially if the injured person shows any of these signs and symptoms associated with a concussion. Nausea, vomiting, dizziness or balance problems, sensitivity to light or noise, headache, feeling tired or sluggish, feeling foggy or groggy, confusion, trouble concentrating, trouble remembering. Remember you can not see a concussion, but you might see some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up days or weeks after the injury. You do not need to have a loss of consciousness to sustain a concussion. An undiagnosed concussion can affect your abilities in all areas of life—school, work and at home! If you sustain a concussion, be sure to follow your Health Care Provider's advice and resume physical activities such as sports teams, only after your brain is healed and you have medical clearance to start practice and play!!

On March 4th, Kindergarten Registration will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Valley, and at 1:30 p.m. at Millboro, Elementary Schools. Be sure to have as many of your child's records available as possible (Birth Certificate, social security number—our staff will make copies and return your originals). All Kindergarten students must have a current School Physical prior to beginning school in August of 2011, along with an up-to-date immunization record—we advise that you obtain these sometime following the Kindergarten Registration and that you not wait until August to complete these requirements to assure that your child begins school on time! Be prepared to complete some paper work while your child visits his/her future Kindergarten class! Our Child Find Program, which consists of screenings designed to identify needs and promote early intervention in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Language and Speech Development, and Fine and Gross Motor Skills, will be held at each of our Elementary Schools in April, but it is still "early" and a date has not been designated at the time this article is being prepared. So stay tuned for future up-dates!!

## MATH



It's been a very busy 9-weeks for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math students. We are working on our SOLs and although 7<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting our goals or a little ahead, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are slightly behind. They are, however, catching up quickly.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade has just finished a geometry unit. We have worked on area, volume, perimeter, and circumference of polygons and circles. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has just finished a unit on fractions. It was a struggle, but we can now finally add and subtract unlike fractions, multiply fractions, find the least common multiple, and the greatest common factor. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade has just finished a unit on division. We are using single digit divisors and 3-, 4-, and 5-digit quotients. Also, we are dividing with decimals and dividing money.

During the course of the 9-weeks we have taken several diagnostic tests. One such test is the Flanagan Test, which tests all the SOL objectives we have covered up to this point. The other test is only for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and is called the AIMS Web Test. This is a timed test and tests the 5<sup>th</sup> grader on a number of different math skills. It is my goal to have the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders caught up by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period.