



# Wildcat Mews

## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and was able to spend some time with family and friends while enjoying the nice weather! We are on the home stretch of the 2012 – 2013 school year. We have less than 50 days of school remaining and yet there is still so much to learn and experience. We have many classes taking exciting field trips during the last 9 weeks and we are also approaching the SOL testing opportunity that allows our students to show off everything they have learned.

I am excited to announce that the MES preschool officially returned to Millboro on March 19<sup>th</sup>! With the support of the

school board and the board of supervisors, a third preschool was established at MES. Mrs. Ann Dujardin was hired as the teacher and Mrs. Suzanna Paxton was hired as her instructional assistant. They are doing a wonderful job!

We also have our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Talent Show coming up on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. We currently have 25 students or groups of students that have signed up to perform during our talent show. Acts range from singing, dancing, joke telling and even a Rube Goldberg demonstration. It should be very exciting and entertaining! In addition, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been making commercials that will air during the talent show. I am very excited to see the

hidden talents that my students possess. The Millboro Ruritan Club will be providing dinner and the students will be providing the entertainment. All proceeds will benefit the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Ticket prices are as follows: Adult \$8 and Children \$5. Please make plans to come out for an evening of good food and entertainment!

Just as a reminder, as Spring approaches and the weather warms up, please remind your child to dress comfortably and appropriately.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Hicklin

## Millboro Elementary School

Fourth Nine Weeks

April 2013

### Dates to Remember in April:

Developmental Screening 2:30-4 pm	9
Gr. 4/5 to Monticello 8:30-3 pm	12
4th Gr. Band Recruitment	15
Gr. 3,4,5 to Camp Bethel 8:15-2:45 pm	19
Talent Show & Dinner 6 pm	25
St. Jude's Bike-a-thon 9-11:30 am	27
4th Gr. Band Recruitment Parent Meeting at BCHS; 6:30 pm	30

### Dates to Remember in May:

Progress Reports Home Gr. 3 to Frontier Culture Museum; 8:45-2:45 pm	1
Bookmobile Visits 3-4 pm	2
Preschool /Kindergarten Promotion Pictures	3
Spring Band Concert at BCHS; 3 pm	5
CFE Meeting ; 3:30 pm	6
SOL Testing for Gr. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	21- June 6
Memorial Day; NO SCHOOL	27
Early Release 12:30 pm	31

### Dates to Remember in June:

Elementary Band to Kings Dominion	1
Last Day of School	13

## Preschool - Mrs. Dujardin



we hope to enrich the lives of our young students, even though we only have a few weeks until the end of the school year. Susanna and I are working hard to make preschool a fun and exciting educational experience



My name is Ann Dujardin and I am the preschool teacher here at MES. I am pleased and excited to be a member of the MES family. I have a wonderful teaching assistant, her name is Susanna Paxton. Together



for our students as well as prepare them for the wonderful journey they will take to Kindergarten. We are looking forward to sharing our wonderful experiences with you.

## Kindergarten-Mrs. Armstrong

The month of March has been busy. The students have been studying facts about Virginia. We talked about the cardinal being our state bird as well as the dogwood being our state tree and flower. We worked on a book about Virginia to help the students remember the facts about our state and to hopefully recognize its shape. They are working on locating Virginia on the map of the United States. We also talked about the Virginia state flag. The students were able to remember seeing the state flag along with the USA flag at different locations in nearby cities. They also made a Virginia state flag. We also discussed symbols of the United States and the signs of freedom. Hopefully these facts will be easy for them to remember as they get older.

The students had a fun day on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We decided to study St. Patrick's Day a little earlier since it fell on the weekend. The students entered the room that morning to find

many things out of place such as chairs turned over, trays moved and calendar items moved around. They were so excited to also find lots of candy and gold coins on the floor. They were even more excited to find out that the gold coins were really chocolate candy. We soon found a note on the board from "Sean the Leprechaun." Even though he messed up our room, it was fun to eat the candy. He messed up our room again during the day and left more candy. The students enjoyed the treats during the day. I did let them know at the end of the day that leprechauns were not real and it had actually been Mrs. Black messing up our room and leaving the candy. It gave us a chance to talk about other countries on the map and ways to travel over the ocean. It was a fun day!

MES was one of the schools who entered the "Get Fit Get Active" contest. This is an organization to encourage students to get lots of exercise in school and at home. Each student in

grades K-6 worked hard to stay active for the contest. Luckily our school was one of the 25 schools who won the contest. The students celebrated their reward on Friday, March 15. They danced and participated in different



activities during the celebration. The teachers too had a chance to dance and have fun. E v e n though the contest is over, each

teacher at MES still make sure their students have time for recess and/or P.E. each day at school. Healthy and active children are happier students.



## First Grade-Mrs. Whitson

During the months of February and March, first graders really fo-



cused on our history goals. First, we learned that President's Day is always in February, and that it is a day to remember ALL United States presidents, especially George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. After reading several books, watching video clips, and many discussions about these most famous presidents, the children made a face model of Abraham Lincoln and wrote important facts about him on a log cabin.

In the course of learning about President's Day and these important leaders, we also worked on money skills by learning which presidents are on

which coins. We also learned other ways to identify each of the coins, including having a poem for each. Needless to say, the children should now be able to recognize all coins and state their values. During the last nine weeks, we will continue learning how to count coin combinations using pennies and nickels, pennies and dimes, and pennies, nickels, and dimes.



In addition to our famous Americans study, the students worked on recognizing our national



symbols and learning about traditional practices that honor and foster patriotism in the United States. The children studied the

following symbols and landmarks, which included the American flag, bald eagle, Washington Monument, and the Statue of Liberty. Subsequent to learning about these symbols, the students made a model of each, which included writing facts on them, and hung them in the hallway.

To foster patriotism, each child had the opportunity to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the entire school during morning announcements. They truly loved having this honor.



## Second Grade-Mrs. Hepler

This nine weeks has been eventful. Despite all the snow days, and late arrivals we have worked like busy beavers.

In Reading students read many stories on animals and Famous Americans. We learned how to look for the main idea and to tell details in a report both on animals and Famous Americans. The students did an excellent job on their research. To conclude this unit the students did an animal report and created a habitat of their animal. You may see these if you go to the library. We also did a Famous American play.

A video of this play was made and will be shown at our next party. The students did an awesome job. Thanks to all parents who made this possible. We did many comparisons of Abe Lincoln, George Washington, Martin Luther King and Susan B. Anthony.

We reviewed many First Grade SOLs and Third Grade. Keep your Famous American folder so you can review for SOLs next year.



In Math we worked on Fact families, subtraction with regrouping, graphs, and mixed subtraction, Probability, ordered pairs, symmetry, shapes and measurement. The students enjoyed making their candy heart graph and making graphs. They enjoyed working with tiles when we worked on perimeter and area. See their shape pictures

in the hall. They enjoyed identifying and counting the number of sides as they created their picture.

In Science we studied weather. We had hilarious stories that we created of our own version of Cloudy with Meatballs. Students enjoyed identifying clouds and making our fake tornado spin.

Our next units of study will be Math-measurement, more on shapes, and repeated addition. Science- fossils, Reading- Dinosaurs stories where we will look at characteristics, cause and effect, suffix, prefix and homophones. We will also work on Tall Tales . In Social Studies we will work on - Then and Now. We will start our Pioneer Unit as we review concepts learned about the USA, and review natural, capital and human resources. We will then conclude our year with China, Egypt, and Economics.

## Third Grade-Mrs. Madison

We have almost finished our handwriting books and we are beginning to do some of our work in cursive. We have finished a chapter book called Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary which was a great book. We continue reading AR books and many of us have met the end of the year goal.

Multiplication facts keep us busy. We have flash card drills to help us learn the facts. We need to practice every night.



For School Board Appreciation Month we gave each board member a certificate to join us for lunch. Mr. Manion and Mrs. Grimm have joined us for

lunch so far.



The week of Feb. 26 – Mar. 1 we celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. We enjoyed the dress up days that followed the themes of Dr. Seuss's books. We made Cat in the Hat hats to wear to the birthday celebration. On our hats we wrote verbs from Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss. The ice cream sundaes we ate at the birthday party were wonderful. We also enjoyed the Disney Dance Party that our school won.



We are glad we participated in the movement activities in the fall! We had a program presented by the Children's Art Network on Ancient Mali which we enjoyed.

We had great attendance the months of January and February and were able to have the attendance trophy for two months!



## Fourth Grade-Ms. Manion

Fourth grade studied weather during the third nine weeks. It certainly gave us something to talk about since the weather was all over the place. The students made an anemometer with Mrs. Reed from Mountain Soil and Water. They are supposed to know which weather instruments are used to measure the characteristics of air used to predict weather. At her suggestion, we have recorded a morning and afternoon temperature since Groundhog Day. We've decided the prediction this year was inaccurate. Some of them also started thinking about when the vernal equinox actually takes place. They realized spring supposedly begins about six weeks from Groundhog Day regardless of what the groundhog predicts. We also worked on electricity during the third nine weeks. We will need to go back and review some of the electrical concepts during the fourth nine weeks. We also started studying animals. We've talked about invertebrates and vertebrates. They will be working on classifying animals in the weeks to come.

In addition, the students have been working on their reading comprehension skills in science. They've been pulling out the characteristics of the different phyla of invertebrates and taking notes on them. The class started working on critical thinking skills in comprehension during the third nine weeks. We will be continuing that during the fourth nine weeks. That means they had to take what the

author said and what they know and reach a conclusion. It's called drawing conclusions. We also worked on inferences and supporting ideas with details. We will need to review the purpose and message behind pieces of writing and media messages in the upcoming weeks. We enjoyed reading the latest book in a series by Gordon Korman titled Hideout.

Fourth grade took their spring writing assessment in March. We will work on what it showed their weaknesses are for the rest of the year. We used our content in Virginia studies to work on nonfiction writing the third nine weeks. We will be doing more nonfiction writing during the fourth nine weeks. We wrapped up the American Revolution during the third nine weeks. Then we studied the new country's struggle to be a truly independent country in the world. We went over the War of 1812 and creating the government we currently have today. Then we studied how the country divided into two and fought the Civil War. We are currently beginning Reconstruction. Then we will move into the 1900s and touch on how the major events of the twentieth century affected Virginia. We will also review government by studying Virginia's state government. Furthermore, we will study the industries in the different regions again. Then we will review for the SOL test.

In math, we finished working on long

division at the beginning of the third nine weeks. Then we moved onto working on fractions. We reviewed elapsed time. We also started measurement. There are a lot of pieces to fractions that the students have to learn. They have done really well with fractions. We've also worked on reviewing multiplication. If facts are not yet automatic for your student, please review the basic multiplication facts. They need to have 0 x 0 through 12 x 12 on the tip of their tongues. We will continue working on measurement during the fourth nine weeks and study geometry. We will review place value and decimals a great deal as well. We will also work on continuing a pattern of numbers or shapes. We are currently working on taking our recorded temperatures to create graphs using Excel. Graphing is both a science and math standard.

Finally, the students in fourth grade did an excellent job of working when we were in school. It's not easy to maintain your focus when you are here then not here. They did a super job of coming in and learning every time they were here during the third nine weeks. They were able to pick back up where we left off. That shows they are very responsible young people. We will continue to work hard to finish learning our curriculum and reviewing during the last couple of months of this school year.



### Coins for a Cure

The school raised \$654.75 for the American Cancer Society. The first goal was \$200 and the reward was free time in the computer lab. The second goal was \$400 and the reward was a hat/crazy hair day. The third goal was \$600 and the reward was Mrs. Hicklin with her hair dyed pink. Mr. Hardbarger met the challenge presented by Mrs. Hicklin to have staff members join her on pink hair day. Thank you for your help in this worthy cause!

## 5, 6, 7 Social Studies-Mrs. Crawford



And it's here! We're in the final stretch of the school year! I can't believe it. This year has zipped by. I guess that's what happens when you're having so much fun, like 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We're moving right along in history and they're doing great! I've never seen such good grades. I guess I was right about them enjoying this content much more! They've discovered some of the great things accomplished by our first five presidents as well as why we moved west. We're finishing up the Civil War and headed into review for our SOL test.

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). After learning about the music, art, and literature of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, we moved in to one of the darkest times of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Great Depression. We've made it through World War II and most of the Cold War. Speaking of the Cold War, we had a blast visiting the bunker at The Greenbrier! We'll be covering the Civil Rights Movement, and then it's on to SOL review! Can you believe it?!

Seventh graders, in Civics and Economics, have really impressed me lately! I love their interest in our laws and how government works. After learning about local government, and parts of Bath County's government, we spent a great deal of time on criminal and civil law. They really enjoyed talking about that! I've been pleasantly surprised at how interested they are in economics. Maybe it's because they know that's been a big deal right now in our national, state, and local governments? Whatever it is, I like it! Until next time...

## 5, 6, 7 Science-Mr. Halterman

We've had an amazing nine weeks in upper-level science. Absences were not too bad, homework and projects were done and, in general, test scores were great! I'm very pleased with our overall progress.

Fifth grade is currently working on Sound and Light, two of our favorite topics. Grade 6 is in the middle of "Atoms and chemistry Stuff", and doing very well. Grade 7 has begun their study of Ecology, which spans about 5 SOLs and will last a few weeks.

Quest has begun. I put a copy of the Quest format on my website and gave a copy to each student, along with a brief parent sheet to bring back. The first deadline includes Question, hypothesis, plan, data form and a page of rough research notes, and is set for

April 15. The deadline for the display is May 13. Anyone doing plant projects will need to plant soon. Students have the option to do a research paper, and rules have been set for this. If a student chooses the Research Paper, he will need to turn in *8-10 page final copy along with cover and reference sheet, 12+ note cards and the rough draft. I will assign their question to research. If they choose this, it will be due the same date as regular Quest displays.* Quest counts 200 points along with 20-50 points extra credit for meeting deadlines and special work. Please note that Quest is an important part of their #1 SOL for each year, so time spent is worthwhile.

I am so pleased with the children's progress this term. Hopefully, we can keep it going as we enter "Spring Fever" season. Have a great spring!

## READING ROCKS AT MES

Our students have shared several fun reading events during the past few months. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday the last week of February by featuring a different book each day, and dressing up to match the books. The students and staff enjoyed wear-



ing odd clothes, and dressing as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters. The second grade class is pictured in their character costumes.

On Friday, we wore black and red in honor of The Cat in the Hat, and had a birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss. We enjoyed eating ice cream provided by the CFE, and sharing hats that the students decorated with different reading SOL activities from the Dr. Seuss book they selected to read.

In conjunction with Read Across America Week, we held our spring Family Reading Night on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Many students came dressed in their Dr.

Seuss character outfits. After the meal and door prize giveaway, the children



divided into groups by grade levels and made activities/games to take home. Preschool-Kindergarteners made and practiced reading a book about The Lorax story, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders read *Ten Apples Up on Top* and made an apple game to use for studying at home, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> graders read *Horton Hears a Who* and made a themed gameboard to take home and play.

Librarian Mrs. Chaplin shared books from the Virginia's Readers Choice booklist with students, and they were able to cast their votes for their favorite books.

## Reading Rocks at MES Continued . . .

Their votes will join students from across Virginia to choose the winners for our state.

During the month of April we will feature Poetry Month. Poetry can be a lot of fun, especially when read together chorally. Try to find a good poetry book to share together as a family. Students in grades 1-5 will attend the Young Authors Celebration sponsored by the

Shenandoah Valley Reading Council at BCHS later in the month. Ginjer L. Clarke, who writes fun, fact-filled nonfiction about weird, wonderful animals will be the featured author. Later this spring we will celebrate Children's Book Week, and will have our spring Scholastic Book Fair. Don't forget to READ EVERY DAY with your children!!



## Seventh Grade-Mr. Hardbarger

How did we get from January 3 to March 28 so quickly? It seems we just returned from Christmas break and now we're at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks and Easter break has come and gone. So many days off because of snow and ice and numerous two hour delays. It has been frustrating, but the kids have done excellent. They have maintained their good study habits and work ethic and that's been their strong points all year. Keep it up seventh graders, this is your last nine at MES. Go out in style.

We have just finished up our math unit on percentages, proportions,

sales tax, commissions and discounts. I am so pleased with the way they have worked for substitute teachers during my absence and owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Hicklin and Mrs. Ryder for helping with the math while I was out. And also many thanks to Mrs. Lee, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Halterman for pitching in and helping during that crazy time. After the Easter holiday we will start our unit in geometry. That's usually fun and a little more interesting than adding and subtracting unlike fractions.

During our reading/language arts class, we continue to read our individ-

ual novels and work on our daily language exercise. We have just chosen a subject to write about from a host of prompts and hope to get them typed and read after Easter break. We also have started this week to read, interpret and analyze news articles. I choose the individual article, but try to tailor it to the students likes and interests. I've heard and read some amazing reviews. There are awesome readers and writers in this class.

Think spring, get ready to garden and take the cover off of the pool.

## Band-Mrs. Hooker



The Bath County Bands have been working hard this winter! Several students were accepted into All Area Band and performed in the event Feb 15 & 16 @ BCHS. The elementary schools were represented by Mary Dressler from MES and Jordan Lee,

Ethan Essex and Kendall Keyser from VES! They gave an amazing performance! All band students have received new band literature in preparation for the spring band concert to be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at BCHS @ 3pm. They are all working hard on reading and counting rhythms as well as adding new scales to their repertoire! Band students with good behavior and concert attendance are invited to travel to Kings Dominion on Sat, June 1<sup>st</sup>! Paperwork has already been sent home and must be returned no later than May 3<sup>rd</sup>! Because of all the snow days, the band schedule has been inconsis-

tent. Please help your child to remember which days are band days and encourage your child to practice every week! As always, please feel free to email with questions! [melindah@bath.k12.va.us](mailto:melindah@bath.k12.va.us)

The BCHS Band Boosters are currently selling chances for a \$500 raffle! The winning ticket will be selected at the Spring Band Concert on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm! You do not need to be present to win! Please see any BCHS Band parent to purchase a raffle ticket or contact Mrs. Hooker at [melinda@bath.k12.va.us](mailto:melinda@bath.k12.va.us)! Thanks for your help!

## Music-Mrs. Lindsay

Classes have continued to be busy during the past few weeks. Patriotic Music has been a huge topic in most classes during the third nine weeks. Each class has focused on one patriotic song. Students are working to learn the words of this song as well as the meaning of these words. The overall plan is for students to know several important Patriotic songs by the end of fifth grade.

We recently added Preschool classes at Millboro. We are having lots of fun singing, dancing and learning about instruments!

Kindergarten students have been learning about the parts of the guitar and the autoharp. They continue to participate in lots of movement activities as well as classroom singing.

First graders have been learning about several musical notes and participating in rhythmic activities. They continue to build their repertoire of songs. These students love to sing and play rhythm instruments! First grades patriotic song is This Land is Your Land.

Second grade is currently reviewing

the trumpet, flute, violin and bass drum. Students can recognize these instruments by sight and know several characteristics of each. We will be working on recognizing them by sound during the next few weeks. America the Beautiful is the patriotic song that second grade is learning.

Third grade is now studying about the Woodwind Family. The Percussion family will be next! Third grade has learned so much about reading music and understanding musical symbols. I am quite proud of them. Third grade is studying the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem!

Fourth graders are currently learning to play the Recorder. Students have learned five notes and will continue working with the recorder until sometime in May. The fourth grade has talked about our "old" State song—Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny. We have been introduced to our current state song—Oh, Shenandoah.

Fifth graders are learning about the Music of the Twentieth Century. We are looking at the important styles of music from each decade. We are

introduced to outstanding performers of each decade. Listening devices are an important part of our class discussions as well. The patriotic song for this group is The Fifty States in Rhyme. Be sure to have a fifth grader sing this for you. We are currently about half way through it! Fun song!

The sixth grade class spent a lot of time learning about Classical Music. We are learning about Medieval, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century music. As we discuss each musical period, we are introduced to composers and instruments of the time period. We also listen to musical selections of the time.

Seventh grade enjoyed playing the guitar for the past several weeks. Students have learned to play Happy Birthday, Louie, Louie, Smoke on the Water and Wipe Out. We have also talked about some of the great Jazz musicians of the 1920s and 1930s. During the last nine weeks, we will also talk about musicals.



## Physical Education-Ms. Forsyth

The Physical Education classes will be very busy this last nine weeks. In the lower grades the students will be involved in rope and hula hoop activities and various indoor and outdoor activities. Grades K-3 will also be working on power walking, upper body strength and aerobic activities.

In the upper block classes, the main focus will be getting the students ready for the physical fitness test which will be given the first part of May. Please have your son and/or daughter practice these activities several times a week at home so they will be ready for the final testing. As a school, our aerobic endurance and upper body strength usually present

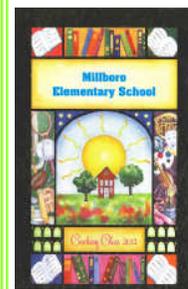
the most problems. Also, in the nine weeks the students will play kickball, soccer, track and field events and golf.

The physical education department's big send off for the summer comes in June with Field Day for PS-7. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.



### MES COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

We still have some MES cookbooks left. The cost is \$10 each. Please contact the school office if you are interested in purchasing one or more!



## Title I Reading—Mrs. Lancaster

As we approach the final nine weeks of the year, we are celebrating many successes! Kindergarten students know all of their alphabet letters, consonant sounds, and most short vowel sounds. We have begun learning the digraph sounds of sh, ch and th. The *Pete the Cat* books have been especially fun to read as we associate key words with the sounds. They have their own word wall of sight words, and are doing VERY well with developing concepts of words as they read books and poems. Andrew



is pictured pointing to words as he reads the *Five Little Ducks* song. First graders continue to increase their reading level, and they are mov-

ing quickly through their Primer and 1<sup>st</sup> grade sight words. They are connecting reading and writing more, as they are writing and answering questions about what they read, and completing graphic organizers about characters and story elements. They especially enjoyed the paired reading about Polar Bears, and finding information they still wanted to know from other resources. Recently they performed a reader's theater for Mrs. Hicklin as they worked on improving fluency. One group of second graders read a realistic fiction book and focused on character traits, and they are currently reading an historical fiction story about traveling west in a wagon train. The other group read a fiction/nonfiction pair of stories about solids, liquids and gases that went along with their science studies. They looked at text features and then enjoyed boiling water (steam), pouring the liquid into molds, and freezing them to eat popsicles. On Digital Learning Day in February they used the computer to do their weekly spelling sorts. Ben and Trevor are pic-

tured working hard on their sort. The digital story prepared by third graders was completed and shown to their classmates. Recently they read a very exciting nonfiction narrative book



about a sunken ship off the shores of Antarctica. We followed up the book with video information to add more details to what they learned. Despite the disruptions from snow days, fourth graders completed the heartwarming story *Shiloh*, and they can pick out a simile in a flash now! We also continued work on skills such as word endings, homophones, prefixes/suffixes and multiple word meanings. Everyone is writing poetry about Earth Day for the hall bulletin board...come by and read their good work!

## Art—Ms. Horner

Students have been busy even with the challenge from the weather.

Kindergarten through second grade finished their cardinal paintings during the third quarter. Kindergarten is now in the process of making pinched pots that they will paint. First grade is making clay snails that they will paint. Second grade is currently making fish that will be painted out of clay. Students had the choice to whether their fish could hang or be self-supporting.

Third and fourth just finished their paper mosaics. Third and fourth are now beginning to learn about relief style print making. Second grade will be print making after completing their fish

sculpture. Students will draw their design on a Styrofoam plate. When a student prints anywhere scratched will be the paper color and any foam not marked on will be the ink color.

Fifth grade just finished building their coil pots and will begin to paint their pots.



Now that most

sixth and seventh graders have fin-

ished building their clay container that looks like food; they are painting them. The next project will be one point perspective where students draw an object like a word or building with it going back to one point.



Donations of the following would be appreciated; plastic containers, grocery bags, and newspapers.

I have enjoyed watching your children craft these awesome projects.

## 5 Qualities to Nurture in Your Child

Experts say that successful, happy people tend to share certain qualities. And parents can help nurture those key traits in their children, even when they're infants. Below are the top five qualities along with some ways to nurture them.

### Trust

A basic trust in others is the foundation for all other traits. Without this babies have a hard time building relationships, feeling confident, and moving forward.

In infancy, that means responding to their basic needs; feeding when hungry, rocking when they need to be cuddled, diapers changed when soiled, talking and singing to them and making eye contact. Creating rituals, like reading to them every night, gives them a really safe feeling.

Toddlers needs are a little more complex. Along with their daily care needs, they need reassurance from you by taking an interest in what they are doing like building block towers or drawing pictures, even scribbles, etc. Taylor your actions to suit their personalities.

### Patience

It's true: Good things come to those who wait. Kids who learn patience are able to persevere and help instill in them a feeling of independence and accomplishment.

Always remember that you are your child's first example. They are watching, so if you lose your patience in rough traffic or a long line, you are setting a poor example. They are like sponges, absorbing what they see.

Parents need to model the behaviors they would like to see in their children. If they spill milk, instead of getting upset, calmly help them clean it up. When your toddler gets upset when something doesn't go his way, telling him you understand and acknowledging his frustration will help him calm down. It works both ways, when you are frustrated, explain to him how you feel instead of getting angry.

### Responsibility

We all need to know how to make commitments and follow through in order to succeed in life. Even 1-year olds have a rudimentary understanding of cause and effect and the realization that there are consequences for their actions.

That's when you start thinking about baby-size responsibilities, like handing them a spoon and asking them to give it to daddy. As they grow older, having them throw their socks in the hamper or put a book on a shelf explaining the value of each task. Make sure you keep your explanations brief. Eventually they will understand.

Try making clean up time fun by making it a game or singing a special clean-up song.

### Empathy

To have successful relationships, you have to know how people are feeling and respond appropriately. For kids, it's between the ages of 3 to 6 that they become capable of putting themselves in someone else's shoes. When a 2 year old bops his friend on the head, he doesn't understand that it hurts because he hasn't felt anything himself.

Explain to him how his actions affect others. If he bites, explain that it hurts and may cause a boo-boo. Be ready to comment on how others feel over and over again. It will take a while before empathy for others to take. Toddlers are very self-centered.

Be careful of television. Cartoon characters tend to beat up on each other, so you will need to point out that in real life, that would feel bad. Not all television is bad, there are some shows that are very good at emphasizing empathy for others.

### Self-Reliance

By learning to act independently, your child will grow up with a strong enough inner compass to know what she wants and to make sound judg-

ments on her own. One of the most effective attributes you can pass on to your child is the ability to solve problems. If your toddler is getting impatient because another has a toy she wants, acknowledge her unhappiness, but encourage her to look for other solutions.

Help your child break tasks into small steps. Instead of learning how to make a whole sandwich, let them spread the jelly, etc. She'll feel more confident about tackling bigger tasks later on.

Also, giving your child age-appropriate things to do. Age 1-may be learning to eat with a spoon, and a year later, putting on a loose-fitting shirt. Make things as easy as possible-buy shoes with Velcro, for example-and be prepared to assist if needed.

One of the best ways to teach self-reliance is by modeling your behavior. If you're having trouble assembling something, talk to yourself out loud, walking yourself through the steps, so you child can see you problem solving.

Don't forget to foster your child's individuality. It's important to solicit and acknowledge their opinions. For an older child, acknowledge a favorite shirt when you see them wearing it often, for a toddler, give them a choice of two shirts to wear, etc.

Letting kids solve their own problems takes time so it's hard for busy parents, but you'll be helping your child more by resisting the urge to do it for them. Lucky for you, your parents taught you patience and empathy. See how they come in handy?

\*\*Main ideas for article by Anne Field from American Baby Magazine

## SESAME HERB CRACKERS

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. table salt
- 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 tsp. dried basil or chives, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. milk
- Kosher salt for sprinkling



### Make It

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk together the flours, sugar, table salt, sesame seeds, and herbs. Use a fork or your fingers to work in the softened butter until it's evenly blended.
2. Make a well in the dry ingredients. Add all the milk and stir until a dough begins to form. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and gently knead it until it's smooth. Add more milk, 1 teaspoon at a time, if the dough is dry.
3. Flatten the dough into a disk and halve it. Sprinkle your work surface with more flour and shape one of the halves of dough into a rectangle. Roll it out into a thin rectangle, about 9 by 16 inches. Carefully transfer it to a rimmed, parchment lined baking sheet.
4. Brush the dough with water, scatter on sesame seeds and herbs, and sprinkle lightly with kosher salt. Use a pizza cutter or a butter knife to cut the dough into 12 or more same-size pieces. Don't separate the pieces or trim off the rough edges.
5. Bake the dough until it's just golden brown, about 15 minutes, turning the pan at least once halfway through. (Keep watch as it bakes; you may need to turn the pan more than once for even browning.) Transfer the pan to a cooling rack and let the crackers cool completely, then break them along the cut lines. Repeat with the remaining dough. The crackers can be stored in an airtight container as room temperature for three days.

\*\*Recipe from Parents Magazine

### St. Jude's Bike-a-thon

The annual St. Jude's Bike-a-thon will be held on April 27 from 9:00 – 11:30 am with a rain date April 28 from 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm. It will be held at Millboro Elementary School. Information will be given to students on April 9. If you have questions, call the school and ask for Mrs. Madison.



### CFE News

Spring, hopefully, is here to stay. CFE has been busy behind the scenes, helping with field trip costs and purchasing AR books. We also did an ice cream treat reward during Dr. Seuss week to show our appreciation to the students for their hard work during the Little Caesar's Fundraiser. Thanks to the students and parents for your dedication to our school! Upcoming CFE happenings include a teacher appreciation lunch and theme week May 6-10 and on May 10th from 6-9 p.m. we will be having a movie night/bake sale. Admission to the movie is FREE. We will be selling baked goods, hot dogs, popcorn and drinks so come out and join us for a

fun filled night. Anyone willing to donate baked goods such as muffins, pound cake, brownies and cookies or your time for this event please get in touch with Trish Alphin, Julie Bryant, Monique Ingram, Kim Manion or Allison Hicklin. We also are getting ready to take orders for Wildcat Wear! We are very excited to get Wildcat Wear out and about to show our Wildcat Pride. We have run into a few snags with this project and we apologize for the delay and thank you for your patience. Thank you all for your ongoing support and if you have any ideas or questions please give us a roar.