

Millboro Elementary School  
411 Church Street  
Millboro, VA 24460  
540-997-5452/839-5804  
Fax: 540-997-0123

# Wildcat Mews



September 2013

## September:

2 - Labor Day;

NO SCHOOL

8 - Grandparent's Day

9 - CFE (Citizen's For Educa-  
tion) Meeting 3:30 pm

11 - 4-H for Grades 4, 5, 6

19 - Fall Pictures 8:45 am

20 - Early Release 12:30 pm

21 - Harvest Moon Festival

9:00 am-3:30 pm

BARC Energy Expo

10:00 am-2:00 pm

22 - Autumn Begins

23 - Progress Reports

Home

## October:

7 - Little Caesar's Pizza Delivery

14 - CFE Meeting 3:30 pm

24 - Early Release 12:30 pm

End 1st Marking Period

26 - Fall Festival

4:00-8:00 pm

31 - Report Cards Home

## From Principal's Desk

Greetings from Millboro Elementary School!

I am so excited to begin my second year at Millboro Elementary School! The school year is off to a fantastic start. I am truly enjoying meeting the new students and welcoming back the returning students. It is amazing how much each student has grown and changed over the summer.

We have our test results back from last year's SOL tests and there is much to celebrate! Time has been spent this summer looking at the data to determine strengths and weaknesses within the school. I used this data to help create an appropriate plan that will allow our students and staff to continue to move forward

in our educational journey. While we have much to celebrate, we also have some work to do. Remediation has been built into



the schedule this year for grades 5 through 7 to allow for more individualized educational opportunities. In Kindergarten through 4th grade, there has been a great focus on small group instruction and cooperative learning. With the teamwork of our fantastic staff

and our awesome students, I expect great things to happen this year!

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive school year. I am very fortunate to be able to spend time each day with the Millboro staff and students. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Allison Hicklin

[allisonh@bath.k12.va.us](mailto:allisonh@bath.k12.va.us)

540-997-5452

## Preschool-Mrs. Brunner

We are so thrilled to be back at Millboro Elementary. We are looking forward to a great year with our students. At the beginning of the year, we will work on learning about the school and learning about each other.

The preschool program in Bath County is a partnership with Head Start. We receive both local and federal funding. New to the program this year will be special volunteer training for parents. We also encourage parents to take part in their children's

education by attending Family Fun Days and field trips throughout the year.

Together, we will make this an exciting new beginning for your child.

## Homework Tip #1:

### Foster a We're in this together "vibe"

by doing your homework together. If you have checks to write, emails to answer, etc. Sit beside your child as you are working. The added bonus is that you are there in case your child needs help.



©Karen's Kids

## Kindergarten-Mrs. Armstrong



It's hard to believe it is time to start another school year. You may feel that way too, but I look forward to a great year with your children. I trust your children will be great helpers in the classroom.

The folder that you received at our open house meeting will go home each day and should return each day with your child. This will be a good responsibility for the students to work on every day. I always remind students to give folders to parents, as well, for important papers go home often for parents to read and or return to school. Please remember to remove all papers each night so I

will know you have seen and read what was brought home and keeping you informed about your child's time at school.

I will be sending home update letters each week to inform you of what we have done in school and the topic for the next week. The letter will also let you know if you can help send items in for the weeks' activities. I also list reminders for the week along with dates to remember for meetings, early releases, etc... This is a wonderful way for me to communicate with parents. Please look for this important letter each week.

We will be discussing safety rules for riding the bus. It would be most helpful if you help with this at home as well. Discuss with your child the importance of using quiet voices on the bus, walking at all times getting on and off the bus and to always watch for traffic when crossing the road. If we can work together, your child's ride to school will be much happier.

I am excited for the year to begin teaching your children and working with you. I trust we will have a great year working together making this a wonderful first year for your children.

## First Grade-Mrs. Whitson

It's so hard to believe that another school year has begun. I'm really looking forward to having a great year with my students. I'm sure it will be packed full of fun and excitement all year long.

The first few weeks of school we will be busy doing some evaluations to determine each student's present level of performance. As of right now, we will be giving the AIMS Web and the PALS assess-

ments. As with every day of school, please make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep and a good breakfast.

A personal thanks to all my parents for getting all school forms filled out and returned so promptly.

Just a few reminders:

- When sending any money to

school, please place it in your child's **'Money Holder'** inside their binder and complete the money form stating what it is for. Place all notes in the money holder as well.

- Ice cream can be purchased on Friday's. The cost will be \$.60.
- **Snack** will be provided each day. The cost is **\$4.00 per month** or \$36.00 for the

entire year. Please make checks out to MES.

- Please make sure your child knows their **ID number** for the cafeteria. They will also need it to access the computer lab resources.
- Always obtain a VISITOR'S PASS when going anywhere other than the front lobby of our school.

## Second Grade-Mrs. Hepler

Students will hear the song "Back to School Again" as they enter my classroom. The summer flew by and it is hard to believe it is time to be back. I am excited about the new things we have planned. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and they are ready to start a fun filled year. Thanks to all parents who attended Back to School Night. I will be giving you our schedule sometime this week. I will call you to see if you have any questions about Second Grade.

We will get off to a great start learning about where we live in our community, our state and our country. We will learn about

safety at home and at school, we will practice counting by 2, 5 and 10's. We will learn how to add numbers to 20, we will give oral presentations, do choral readings and learn about our home and landforms. If you see any monarch butterfly caterpillars please bring them in. It seems harder to find them. Their eggs and caterpillars are on milkweed plants.

In Manuscript writing never start from the bottom. Please watch your child as he practices. It is a habit that has been hard to break. Practice making letters from the form I sent home. We start with lower-case letters and progress to

upper-case letters. In February, we start Cursive Writing. Please pay attention while your child is writing so we can make sure he is making the correct form.

We will read various books on bullying, manners, and life skills. We will work as a team so we will have a successful year. It takes all of us working together to make your child's educational experience a successful one. Please feel free to call me at any time. My numbers will be on our class letter.

### Homework Tip #2:

#### Divide and conquer.

Help your child with the subjects that you are good at. If your husband is better in another subject area where you are weaker, have him help your child with that subject.

## Third Grade-Mrs. Madison

Open House Night was a time for fun and work. The children had the fun and the parents had the work!



We had a busy first day of

school. Each student cleaned their desk and chair. They organized their desks, binders, and pencil boxes. Forms were collected as well as other supplies. Rules were reviewed and good behaviors for the school were modeled.

The 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks will begin with assessments in Spelling, Reading, and Math. Two of these assessments are Aimsweb and PALS.

Science skills will include life processes and life cycles. Map skills and explorers will be the focus in Social Studies. Math time will find us busy with patterns, graphs, place value, rounding, and much more. Each week there will be spelling words to study as well as



lots of exciting stories to read.



Check your child's homework notebook each night for assignments, notes, spelling list, etc. The homework folder, along with the homework notebook, will help keep your child organized this year. Good study habits, communication between home and school, the proper amount of rest, and good nutrition will help your child have a great year!

### Homework Tip #3:

**Let your child take the lead.** Let him explain what he does know about the subject or problem and that may help him to figure it out. Remark on what he does know so that he feels encouraged.

## Fourth Grade-Ms. Manion

### Homework Tip #4:

#### Dangle a Carrot.

When your child is close to an answer, but it's not clicking say, "I know you don't have the solution yet, but what do you think it might be?" or "Is there a different way you can come up with the answer?" You want to help your child reach for the answer.

Fourth grade will start the year with the basics in math, reading, language arts, Virginia studies, and science. We will study the parts of a science experiment and how to conduct a scientific investigation or experiment. We will also learn about plants and animals during the first nine weeks. In reading, we will start on understanding the relationship between questions and their answers. This will help the students in Virginia studies and science as well as reading. The students read to learn starting in fourth grade. It is a tough transition from learning to read. We study reading comprehension all year. In language arts,

we will be studying sentences to start the year. We also work on the parts of speech. We will be studying homophones. However, we study them all year. In Virginia studies, we start by learning the geography of the state of Virginia. Then we will chronologically follow the events in the history of our state. In math, we will start the year working on place value, addition, and subtraction. Place value includes rounding, estimating, and comparing whole numbers. We also will take place value to the thousandths place in decimals. In addition, we will start working on some understanding of measurement since it is needed in

science. We will also be working on the basic multiplication facts. We will work on understanding the concept of multiplication and using the facts to get them stuck in our heads. Being able to automatically recall the basic multiplication facts will make the rest of the math throughout the year much easier. Unfortunately, we will not be doing flash cards at school, but I do encourage you to help your student review the basic multiplication facts. Almost all of the rest of fourth grade math is built on the knowledge of multiplication.

## Science-Mrs. Paret

I am so excited to introduce myself to you. I am the new Science teacher for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Millboro Elementary. This has been a great first week and I am really enjoying getting to know each and every one of the

students here at Millboro. This truly is a wonderful place!

Recently, I moved from the Big Island of Hawaii and I feel I have moved to yet another patch of paradise here in Virginia. Thank

you for the opportunity to work with your child/children. This is sure to be a fantastic year of learning and discovery in Science.



## 6 & 7 Reading/Language Arts-Mrs. Secoy

Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts with Mrs. Secoy! This year we will read fantastic novels, experience various genres of reading, and become fluent writers. I am truly looking forward to working with you and your student! I know we'll have a fabulous year!

I am so excited to be joining the team at Millboro this year! I am moving to Bath County from Northern Virginia with my husband, Bryan, our son, Lucas, and our dog, Earl. Bryan and I both grew up in Missouri, and I completed my B.A. in English at Truman State University in northeastern Missouri. I will be

completing my Masters of Education from George Mason during the upcoming year. We are so excited to join the Millboro Elementary community!



## 5 English, 5, 6 Math-Ms. Lee

Welcome to fifth grade Language Arts. Alliterations are a great place to start.

Exploring our names with a tongue twist or too.

Read Animalia by Graeme Base.

His alliterations will mesmerize you.

Look to literature for character traits so clear

Jealousy, anger, insecurity, and fear

Ambitious, courageous, adventurous, loquacious and

Jovial, just to name a few.

Ray Bradberry's, All Summer in a Day reveals the harmful bully's traits,

Things we ought to not do.

We will recite a poem by Charlotte Zolotow with added creative actions about changes in a year

The real change is within each student that we all hold dear.

We will read an autobiography about a man and a wild bear,

Respect all creatures is the theme we will learn there.

Through a variety of genres, experiences and strifes

I hope we learn a bit about literature and whole lot

About Life!

Fifth & Sixth Grade Math

What a great group of students! I am thrilled to be at Millboro working with the fabulous fifth and stunning sixth grade students (Can you find the alliterations and explain them to your parents?). We will use hands-on objects and real life situations with our math objectives. Recipes, crafts, Olympic records, floor plans, and nutritional information are examples of real life

math we will explore in class. The math objectives are more rigorous and expectations for students are high. Please look over the math standards of learning on the Virginia Department of Education website. This year your students are lucky to have an extra teacher in the classroom. Ms. Julie (sixth grade) and Mrs. Black (fifth grade) are in class to help with instruction and differentiation.



## Physical Education-Ms. Forsyth

The physical education classes at MES are looking a a "bright" future for 2013-14. The gym has all new lighting and everything is brighter.

Students in grades PS-7 will have physical education on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They will need to have tennis shoes at school on those days for classes.

Physical fitness training starts us off as we prepare for Fitness-gram testing in September. Students will be tested on cardiovascular endurance by running the mile and pacer. Upper body

strength is measured by the number of 90 degree pushups a student can complete properly. Students' flexibility is tested with the sit and reach while abdominal strength is measured by number of curl-ups completed.

PS, K and I will be working on gross motor skills and eye-hand coordination. Grades 2 and 3 will practice some of the fitness-gram tests to get a benchmark level for growth and access individual student's needs.

You are welcome to come to the gym and participate in class

with the student/ Just remember to bring your tennis shoes! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at school or at home.



### Homework Tip #5:

**Remember Your Goal.** It's not only to help, but to let your child know you are there for him. So while you want them to come up with the answer on their own, if you see your child getting frustrated and hating the world, do not withhold the answer. Your relationship is more important.

**Homework Tip #6:**

**Know When to Quit.**

If either of you is threatening to disown the other, don't walk away from a struggling child, ask your spouse to step in. You may also offer to Google something, be a sounding board or find someone better able to help.

**Band-Mrs. Hooker**

BAND! BAND! BAND!

The elementary bands are gearing up for a terrific year! The sixth and seventh grade students will continue to learn and expand their fundamental skills. They will use those skills to perform some cool, fun, creative music! They will also have the opportunity to audition for all area and all district honor bands! We will be clapping, stomping and singing our way to success! We encourage any fifth grader that wants to join in the

excitement to become a part of this family! We will have you ready to perform in no time! For more info, contact Mrs. Hooker at [melindah@bath.k12.va.us](mailto:melindah@bath.k12.va.us). If you already know what instrument you are playing, call Star City Music at 540-772-7722 or email them at [starcitymusic.com](http://starcitymusic.com) for rental info! If you have already set up your rental, you are ready to go! If you have an instrument, but not a book, you can order your book/oils/reeds etc through Star City as well! FYI...Band days will be

TUESDAY and THURSDAY this year!

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

- Plato

**Title I-Mrs. Lancaster**

It's great to be back in school and beginning a new year. Students are excited to share about books they read over the summer or are reading now. We are beginning the year by reading together books about treating each other with kindness and celebrating each other's special gifts. Some of the titles we will be reading include *Tony Baloney School Rules*, *I Wish I Could Fly*, *Thank You Mr. Falker*, and *The Three Silly Girls Grubb*. We will discuss the author's purpose for each book, and what we can learn about how to be a good friend.

This fall will be busy with fun reading events. First we will celebrate our summer reading

with a READING ROCKS party. Students who return their summer reading activity sheets will be invited to join the celebration! We also have two special reading activities scheduled. September 9th is International Literacy Day. Students will be exposed to literature from around the globe to help them appreciate the diversity of the world in which we live. On October 3rd we will again participate in Read for the Record by reading *I'm With Otis* by Loren Long. We hope to help set a new world record as we join over 2.5 million other children reading the same book. Our first family Reading Night will be coming later this fall. Keep up to date with this and other reading happen-

ings by using the link for my school website at [www.bath.k12.va.us/mes/kiml](http://www.bath.k12.va.us/mes/kiml). Remember that the best way to help your children be good readers is to read to them every day!

**Jumpstart's  
Read for the Record® -  
October 3, 2013**



**Behavior Interventionist-Ms. Notermann**

Welcome to school year '13-'14! I am pleased to return to Millboro for my second year of service to the Millboro community. You may know that as an independent contractor to Bath County I provide counseling services free of charge to the students who are assigned to me. Bath County provides the funding for the behavior program at each of the schools this year. I meet with students individually or in small group sessions to promote positive behavior and interactions. We identify effective and appropriate social strategies, learn how best to respond to fears and anger, and, when necessary, practice academic skills. I observe and provide support to my clients throughout school

settings, communicate progress and challenges to their families, and work with staff members to maximize the student's progress. At all times, the effort is to keep a can-do attitude towards positive change. If you have an interest in having your child work with me, please call Mrs. Hicklin or let your child's teacher know of your interest. Enjoy the year!



**Homework Tip #7:**

**Have a Special Place Set Aside for Homework.**

Make sure you set aside a special place to do homework; whether it be the kitchen table or a desk in a corner of the living room. Stock it with pencils, paper, glue sticks, etc. Anything that will help your child get his homework done without excuses.

\*Homework Tips excerpted from Parenting.com

## Counselor's Corner-Mrs. DeBoe

Welcome back! Hope you had a great summer and are ready for the new school year. I am looking forward to an exciting year filled with new adventures. We will stay busy exploring numerous topics in guidance. As always, learning to respect ourselves and others will be a focus. I plan to see confidence and self-esteem

soar as students tackle a new set of challenges. As we stretch ourselves intellectually and emotionally, I hope that you will recognize improvement in character and academic success. It's going to be a great year!



## Art-Ms. Horner

On the very first day, students will review rules, expectations, and consequences in the art room. On art days (Tues. & Thurs.) please remind your child to do their best and not to wear their best clothes. I will try to expose students to a variety of assignments throughout the year covering the Virginia's art stan-

dards of learning. I will begin with a drawing lesson to start the year and then each group will have a different focus. I look forward to creating artwork with your child. Donations of newspapers and plastic containers are highly appreciated. I look forward to working with your child!

## Music-Mrs. Lindsay

Welcome back, students! All classes will be very busy as they encounter many new musical experiences this year. Here is a brief overview of the activities students will participate in during the first nine weeks.

Students in Kindergarten will enjoy getting to explore musical instruments, songs and games. First Grade students will experiment with movement to music. Some of our movements will be structured and some of it will be

student initiated. First Grade students will also play rhythm instruments and learn a lot of fun songs! Second Grade will be learning to follow the words of a song when written below the music staff. This is such a big accomplishment! They will learn about the music staff, the treble clef and the double bar line. Third Graders will begin to learn about the orchestra. We will be talking about the Brass Family during this first nine weeks. We will learn about the characteristics of the

instruments as well as their names! Fourth Grade students will be preparing to play the recorders in the Spring! We will discuss line and space notes and learn the names of the notes. Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Grade students will spend their time singing and reviewing many musical concepts. Students will be working with beat and rhythm as well. Let's have a great nine weeks!



### Homework Tip #8:

**When Your Child Feels Stuck**, instead of telling him he can do it or he just needs to try harder, consider coming to your child with empathy. You can say something like: "It sounds like when you look at this homework, you just feel overwhelmed. Nobody likes that. So what do you want to do?" Children should already know they have to do the work, that not doing it is not a long-term solution, but sometimes they just want to be heard. So you can give them a choice of giving it a go by themselves or with your help. If neither of you can figure it out after trying, jot a note to the teacher explaining that your child needs extra attention, so she is in the loop, too.



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

Wow! Where did summer go? How about all that rain?! Gee whiz! It's so wonderful to have everyone back. I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new fifth graders. I'm looking forward to a super year with all of you! We've gone over lots and lots of expectations and responsibilities of being in fifth grade. We did some really fun team building exercises to kick off the year. In History, we will start by "visiting" the various geographic regions of the United States. We'll also "see" one of the oldest archaeological spots in America that's right here in Virginia! Too cool!

We're off to a great start this year and I'm truly looking forward to our year together. Please visit my webpage at [www.mistercrawford.com](http://www.mistercrawford.com) to stay informed on homework, upcoming events and more. Just

be sure to click the US History I tab to see what's happening in fifth grade.

We're off to a great start in sixth grade, too! I think we were all happy to reunite after our long summer break. US History II picks up where we left off last year, Reconstruction. After we learn about the 50 states located within the seven regions, we're moving on to the settlement of the Great Plains. From John Deere to sod houses, I believe the kids will enjoy learning how Americans adapted to the environment in order to settle this harsh region of the United States. Please visit my webpage frequently to keep up with what your child is doing in US History II.

Civics and Economics has been going wonderfully, as well. This is our third year together and I'm

so excited that they're back! We'll be learning how a 222 year-old document consisting of only 4,400 words has provided us with the most stable (note, I said most) form of government in history and how our framers planned for the future so it would last this long. To start, we will be spending a good bit of time discussing the Bill of Rights and how it affects our daily life. We've actually spent some time with that already, but will be spending piles more. I'm very excited about the school year as well as the upcoming elections. We'll actually be able to see what we've been learning about in action and hopefully make some connections to and understand the importance of civic duty and our responsibilities as Americans! Don't forget, too, to check out our class site for homework, links, and more.

[www.mistercrawford.com](http://www.mistercrawford.com)