



Wildcat Mews

From the Principal's Desk—Mrs. Allison Hicklin

Welcome back, Millboro Wildcats!! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer!

The staff and students are settling in nicely and we are off to a fantastic start. Please join me in welcoming our new staff members. Anne Clarry is our new guidance counselor. Kimberly Craig is the new art teacher. LeAnn Forbes is the new Title I teacher and Reading Specialist. Also, please welcome Catherine Chestnut as a new instructional assistant.

We have our test results back from last year's SOL tests and there is much to celebrate! We are fully accredited again this year and have met all federal AMO's. In fact, if you go to the website www.schooldigger.com and take a look at the rankings of Virginia elementary schools, MILLBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS RANKED NUMBER 1 based on our exceptional SOL scores! The Millboro Wildcats not only met the state accreditation benchmarks and federal AMO's, we hit them out of the park! WAY TO GO, MES!!! I am very proud of all the hard work the staff, students and families have put into making MES the most awesome elementary school in the state of Virginia.

While celebrating this great success, we are still moving forward and continuing to develop and fine tune our instructional programs. All teachers are working on setting goals for individual students to ensure that all children continue to reach their potential. Everyone is working very hard and I expect great things to continue to happen!

I am very privileged to be able to spend time each day with the Millboro staff and students - they are an amazing group of people. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Preschool—Mrs. Leslie Brunner

Preschool 2015-16 is off to a great start! We have 14 children enrolled this year, and we are happy to be here! Many of the children are new to the preschool experience, but all of them are learning the routine and safety rules quickly. We are beginning to learn each others' names. Many of the children are going home singing some of the songs we sing at school. We got to finger paint for the first time this week. Some of the children weren't too keen on the idea at first, but once they tried it, they all had fun. Our parents have been very diligent at making sure their children arrive at school on time and keeping us informed of the reasons for absences. We are very grateful that our parents are also remembering to send in everything their children need at school such as blankets, tennis shoes, and daily folders. Way to go Parents!

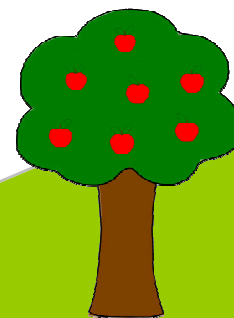


Important Dates:

- 09/01 Kroger Points Program Starts
- 09/03 Bookmobile Visits 3:30-4:40 pm
- 09/07 Labor Day/NO SCHOOL
- 09/08 Bookmobile Visits 3:30-4:40 pm
- 09/09 Fall Picture Day
4-H Visits Gr. 5/6
- 09/10 4-H Visits Gr. 4/7
- 09/21 Progress Reports Go Home
- 09/25 Early Release 12:30 pm
- 09/26 Bath County One Day Fair
- 10/01 Mountain Soil & Water Visits Gr. 4-7
- 10/05 CFE Pizza Fundraiser Begins
- 10/13 Bookmobile Visits 3:30-4:30 pm
- 10/14 4-H Visits Gr. 5/6
- 10/15 4-H Visits Gr. 4/7
- 10/22 End 1st Marking Period
Early Release 12:30 pm
- 10/23 CFE Pizza Fundraiser Ends
- 10/29 Pupil Holiday/NO SCHOOL
Parent Conference Day
1-4 pm & 4:30-7 pm

Back to School

We are beginning to plan a Literacy Event in September for the preschoolers and their parents. We will let you know more as the plans are finalized. This is always a great time!



Kindergarten—Mrs. Donna 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 watched a bus safety video last week at school. The students enjoyed the video and were able to remember many safety rules for getting on, riding and getting off the bus. Please remind your children often of the importance of following safe bus rules.

First Grade—Mrs. Pat Whitson

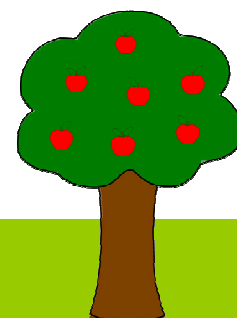
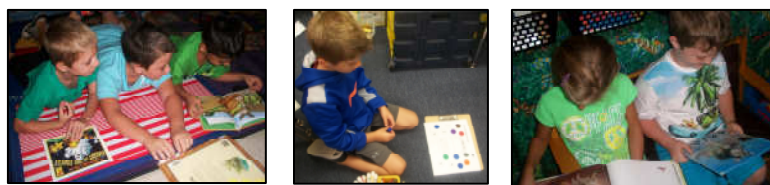
It's so hard to believe that another school year has begun. First graders arrived on the first day of school with smiles on their faces and backpacks on their backs - ready to begin the year. I'm really looking forward to having a fantastic year with my students. I'm sure it will be packed full of fun and excitement all year long.



Of course, the first several days of school wouldn't have been any fun at all without spending a little time doing some fun activities. It was the perfect time to get reacquainted with those special friends that were greatly missed over the summer break, as well as build relationships with the new students.



During the first few weeks of school we will be busy doing certain evaluations to determine each student's present level of performance. The data collected helps determine where to begin instruction for your child. Beginning the week of September 1st, we will begin the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) assessment. As with every day of school, please make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep every night (8 - 10 hours) and eats a good breakfast.



Second Grade—Mrs. Kris Hepler

Second graders are off to a great start. Students are getting into the swing of things. Each day more things are introduced to your child. They have books, grades, study guides, centers all which are new to your child. They have adjusted quite well.

Students have been learning about citizenship and friendship. We made friendship bracelets and sunshine cookies. We have gone over many rules. We are making a video to share with Pre-school and K on playground safety.

We made a booklet on When I Was Young in Bath County. In Social Studies we have started our unit on Where I Live: We started with our home address and made our home to put on our town map. We will then move to studies on Virginia and the United States.

In reading we are reading about homes. We have a house that the students put up and are coloring. We are comparing rural, urban and suburban areas. We are working on story maps, retells, sequencing, Venn Diagrams, and blends.

In math we are working on counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's. We are adding. We are learning to count on, how to write number equations, and we will be working on adding 3 digit numbers and addition word problems.

In Science we will learn about Life Cycles and Plants. If you see any caterpillars you may bring them in in an unbreakable jar with food from their host leaf. Flowers may be brought in the week we return from Labor Day. We will look at their seeds.

We have read many books on friendship and bullying. We want our classroom to be Bully free. We have interviewed our friends and learned more about each other. I feel we will have a great year!

Third Grade—Mrs. Sharon Madison

We have 14 students in our class. Students had fun making door know hangers during Open House Night. Our first few days of school have been very busy. On the first day each student cleaned their desk. 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. As the days go by we are getting more and more into our regular schedule. We enjoyed a great time in the gym celebrating our great school wide SOL scores.

The 1st 9 weeks will begin with assessments in Spelling, Reading, and Math. Two of these assessments are PALS and IA.

Science skills will include life processes and life cycles. Map skills will be the first 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!



****Please make sure your child is fever free for 24 hours before sending them back to school after an illness.****



Cafeteria Reminder

Just a note to remind parents to add money to your child's lunch account on a regular basis. If you are unsure of how much is in their account, please call the school and ask to speak to the cafeteria manager.

Also, extras and ice cream cannot be charged to the account if you have a balance due.



Fourth Grade—Ms. Kim Manion

Fourth grade will start out the year in math by working on place value, comparing numbers, rounding, numerical patterns, properties of addition and multiplication, addition, subtraction, and estimation. I would encourage everyone to talk to your student about how you use math in the real world. It helps if they connect what they are learning in school to every day experiences. Furthermore, they need to be reviewing the basic multiplication facts. Fourth grade science will work on how to conduct an experiment as well as how to communicate those results. We will discuss Virginia's natural resources including watersheds. In addition, we will work on knowing the parts and jobs of those parts of plants. Virginia studies is our social studies for the year. It starts by covering Virginia geography. Then we will study the Virginia Indians and bring new people to Virginia at Jamestown. It is very important that all students read fiction and nonfiction. We have Scholastic News and National Geographic "magazines" we will be reading in the classroom. We will be working on understanding different types of questions and how to answer them. We work on the comprehension strategies of visualization, prediction, and questioning this nine weeks in reading. All of them should be reading every day. Practice improves reading. Fourth grade reading is all about comprehension and reading text to learn. That is a significant change from the primary grades.

****Please do not drop your child(ren) off at school before 8:00 am.****

5th Science/Language Arts and 6th Science—Mrs. Dodie Bayne

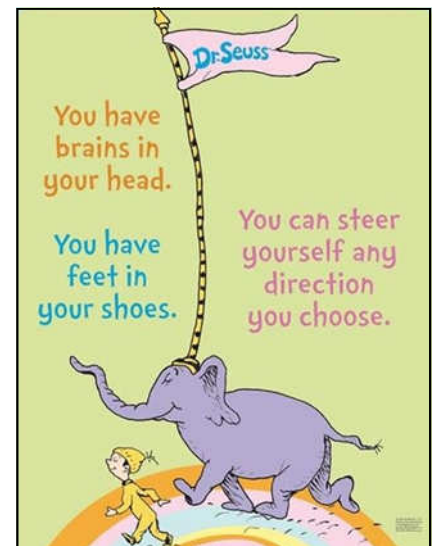
Welcome to the 5th grade at Millboro Elementary School where things are off to a great start! This week, we covered routines, rules, consequences and even practiced a lock down drill in our "stinky" science lab closet. On Thursday, we learned a little bit about team work and "Saving Sam" in a STEM project. If you get a chance, ask a fifth grader, "Just how hard is it to get a life-saver on a worm?"

5th grade Science - We will be learning about the scientific method and putting it into practice, while carrying out some experiments. We will be stating the problem, completing research, making educated guesses, experimenting, taking data and coming up with a conclusion. We will also become geologists and study some rocks. Let's get ROCKIN'!

6th grade Science - We will be taking the Scientific Method a step further and designing an experiment that will require many trials and as a result, many different outcomes. We will also be getting out our science measuring tools and putting them to use. Come on over and play, Ms. Lee!

5th grade Language Arts - We are using the Dr. Seuss book *Oh, the Places You'll Go* to inspire us to do our best and reach higher this quarter. We have lots of reading and writing ahead of us this year, but we know we can do it, if we put our minds to it!

Dr. Seuss Says:



6th & 7th Grade Language Arts—Mrs. Maria Secoy

Happy New School Year! This year we will read fantastic novels and explore our writing talents. 6th & 7th grade will unite to spend time reading during literature circles, and I'm very excited to let them share some really good books this year! We will also be incorporating writing workshop into our class this year. This means that students will spend about 20 minutes writing each day! They will be able to write about whatever they want, and their writing will not have a final copy due on a specific day. Instead, students will get to try out all kinds of writing "crafts" (like writing a story that ends the way with the same line it started with, starting an informative piece with a personal story, or using dialogue to help their characters come alive). Their grades will be based on how they use that week's "craft" skill. We tried this a little bit last spring, and students were so excited to share their stories and knowledge. I can't wait to see what they will write about this fall!

It's my goal to help your child discover a love of reading and writing, and I'm so grateful to be a part of your child's education.

7th Grade Life Science—Mrs. Maria Secoy



What an exciting year this will be! 7th grade science includes dissecting frogs, creating a whole civilization of "paper pets" that will evolve over much of the winter, taking walks along the nature trail, and inspecting the division of onion root tip cells under a microscope. Students will become familiar with all kinds of new science terms and get to know some really cool scientists, like Rosalind Franklin and Gregor Mendel. I'm looking forward to exploring the world around us with this year's 7th grade class!

Counselor's Corner—Ms. Anne Clarry



I have greatly enjoyed getting to know all kiddos these past two weeks! The younger grades have gotten an introduction to the role of the counselor, while the older grades are working on self-awareness. Each group has proven to be unique and fun in their own way. I have enjoyed getting to meet parents and hope to eventually meet you all. As a reminder, I am here to work with you to ensure your child reaches his/her potential. Parent involvement is welcomed, encouraged, and necessary for your child's success. Please feel free to contact me. Because I split my time with BCHS, email is the best method of communication.

In case you're wondering- How does my child see the school counselor?

Every grade receives a classroom guidance lesson once a week. Additionally, small groups on a variety of topics will be formed throughout the year. Currently, 4th graders are meeting in small groups to focus on study skills.

Students may stop in the counseling office before or after school, during lunch, or between classes to request an appointment. We try not to take kids out of class. If it is an emergency, a student can come in and request to see the counselor at any time.

Here's to a great year!



Band—Mrs. Melinda Hooker

The 5th, 6th and 7th grade band students are very excited to start the school year! The 6th and 7th graders are working to learn and memorize scales as well as pushing to learn notes in the upper range. They are also getting started on performance music already! The 5th graders are just getting started with band...learning to count rhythms and read music! They are also mastering how to put together and care for their new instruments! They have started making some pretty amazing sounds and its going to be an awesome group! If you have a child that still needs to rent an instrument for the school year, you can check out www.starcitymusic.com for rental info. Star City can also assist with reeds, oils, books etc. You can find rentals and accessories at any local music store! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns! melindah@bath.k12va.us

5, 6, 7, History—Mr. Joey Crawford

Wow! Where did summer go? 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 tons 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 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 226 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.

Music Notes—Mrs. Tammy 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 studying 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. Students in fifth grade will be learning about African American Spirituals during this first nine weeks. We will be talking about the codes found in the songs that were used for escape through the Underground Railroad. 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!

Phys. Ed.—Ms. Connie Forsyth

It is hard to believe summer is over and another school year is beginning. Physical Education class is ready to roll and the gym is open for business. Student's days for PE have changed this year - I am at MES on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and VES on Wednesday and Thursday. Tennis shoes are required for any activity in the gym and PE class. For safety reasons it is also important they have them for recess times with their class.

MES students are great to teach. In the gym they are always eager to try new things and give 100% plus the majority of the time. I want them to know that fitness can be fun and the rewards they can gain physically.

We are learning different recreational games in the upper block. Activities 4-7 will be involved in include spike ball, kan jam, ladder toss, bean bag toss, bocce, badminton and horseshoes. We will also spend time jumping rope and setting personal fitness goals.



4-H Clover Corner



Hello this is Kari Sponaugle, your 4-H Agent serving Bath and Highland Counties. I wanted to welcome you back to school for another great year of learning not only with MES but with 4-H as well. All youth in grades 4-7 will be enrolled this year in a 4-H program. 4th graders will learn about electricity and magnetism and will have a record book they'll be working on for submission for a 4-H ribbon. 5th graders will cover a wide variety of science topics from geology, ocean life to sound and light. 6th and 7th graders will learn about citizenship, public speaking and lessons preparing them for 4-H presentation contests and science fair project contests at the local and district 4-H level.

Along with in-school projects, we also have the Trottin' Horseshoes 4-H Horse Club which meets at Valley. Those dates are September 9th, October 14th and November 11th right after school. The MES After-School 4-H Club led by Ms. Kim Manion starts up in September again as well with macroinvertebrate data collection. These clubs are open to youth ages 9 and up. MES will also be hosting a Bath County 4-H Achievement program later this fall. More information on that will be shared later. And don't forget about entering crafts, photos, canned and baked goods along with other fair items, in this year's second annual Bath County Fair on September 25th and 26th in conjunction with the MES Fall Festival! We're very excited to be doing this again!

If you ever have a 4-H question, please contact 4-H Agent Kari at 540-839-7261 or email at karis@vt.edu. Have a great year!

5/6 Math—Ms. Jan Lee

Welcome Back! It is fantastic to be back at school. We have the greatest students! In 5th and 6th grade math we are trying to take daily brain breaks, to move our bodies, lift our spirits, and get the blood moving to our brains. As a school, we are using a web site called www.GoNoodle.com. Some of our favorite breaks are POP SEE KO, Roller Coaster, Rainbow, and Peanut Butter in a Cup. My favorite is character is Maximo, he likes to make use stretch, breath and burn (the students are not fond of him). Pull up www.GoNoodle.com at home, we love it here.

This year we will also use Kahn Academy. I will set the students up at school and they can play when they have free time at school or at home. Many students like to compete and see who can achieve the top score. Tutoring videos are available when a player is having trouble completing a task. Kahn Academy is a good source to use when students are having difficulties understanding math concepts. Please feel free to use my website for links to online games and math sources. We are going to have a wonderful year and thanks for sharing your awesome children with me.

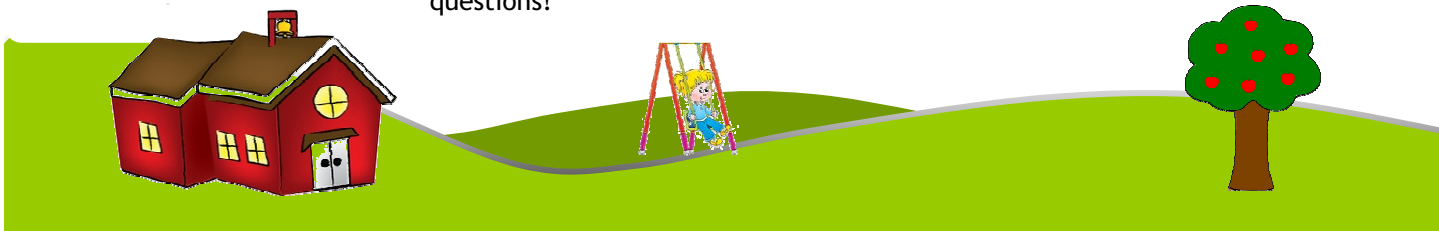
Title I—Ms. LeAnn Forbes

Well, we are back in gear with another school year and I am very excited and honored to be the new Title I teacher here at Millboro Elementary School! I am originally from Covington and have worked in Roanoke City Public Schools for 3 years. In addition, I have worked as a literacy coach, middle school reading interventionist, gifted and talented coordinator, and transition coordinator for military students in Colorado. I am a huge music lover and singer. Whenever I get the opportunity, I am outside camping, hiking, hunting, or enjoying any other type of outdoor activity.

We are in the planning stages for our fall International Reading Day as well as other literacy events that involve all of our families! The students are being assessed for their current reading levels, sight word knowledge, and more. This will help to guide instruction and will be reassessed each month to ensure that students are reading on the appropriate instructional level. Here are some suggestions to support your students at home with reading!

- ◆ Point out and read words in natural settings - stores, streets, etc.
- ◆ Help with sight words
- ◆ Help with visualization (picturing the story in their head)
- ◆ Ask questions before, during and after reading: make predictions, ask about the characters, what is the main idea, what is the problem and/or solution, retell the story, what is the genre, what is the moral of the story?
- ◆ Don't tell an unknown word right away. Ask them to: sound out the word, break the word into parts, try a different vowel sound, use pictures for clues
- ◆ READ FOR AT LEAST 20-30 MINUTES A DAY!!

I am truly thrilled to work with your children and community. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!





MILLBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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 Principal: Allison Hicklin

September 2, 2015

www.schooldigger.com

This website uses test data released from the VDOE to rank schools by calculating an average standard score across grades. Out of 1016 elementary schools in the state of Virginia, Millboro Elementary School is ranked number 1 based on test scores in grades three through five. Out of 391 middle schools, Millboro Elementary School is ranked number 8 based on test scores in grades six and seven. The rankings are calculated based solely on test scores. The test scores were updated on August 12, 2015.

Rank (of 1016)	School					Student and teacher data (2014)			Rank data (2015 vs 2014)	
	School	District	City	Low Grade	High Grade	# Students	Student/Teacher Ratio	% of Students Eligible for Free/Disc Lunch	Average Standard Score (2015)	Rank change from 2014
1	Millboro Elementary	Bath County Public Schools	Millboro	PK	07	121	11.0	48.8%	94.59	▲ 466
2	Shady Grove Elementary	Henrico County Public Schools	Glen Allen	PK	05	758	27.0	3.2%	93.67	▲ 6
3	Watauga Elementary	Washington County Public Schools	Abingdon	PK	05	584	16.4	39.2%	92.76	▲ 96
4	Spring Hill Elementary	Fairfax County Public Schools	McLean	PK	06	951	18.3	4.0%	92.35	▲ 2
5	Waller Mill Elementary	York County Public Schools	Williamsburg	KG	05	291	16.2	18.9%	92.22	▲ 247
6	West Point Elementary	West Point Public Schools	West Point	PK	05	333	14.3	35.4%	91.96	▲ 33
7	Nottingham Elementary	Arlington County Public Schools	Arlington	PK	05	726	16.8	2.3%	91.76	▲ 18
8	Kingston Elementary	Va Beach City Public Schools	Virginia Beach	PK	05	577	18.8	5.9%	91.54	▲ 86
9	Arlington Traditional	Arlington County Public Schools	Arlington	PK	05	503	14.2	16.9%	91.52	▼ 5
10	Haycock Elementary	Fairfax County Public Schools	Falls Church	PK	06	905	18.1	2.8%	91.26	▼ 3