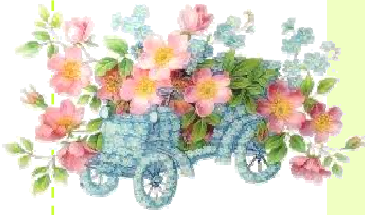


# Wildcat Mews



**Dates to Remember for April**

Children's Art Network Gr. 3: 9:30-11 am Gr. 2: 12-1:30 pm	7
Mountain Soil & Water Visits	
PBIS Hat Day; \$1.00	8
Bookmobile Visits; 2:45-4 pm	12
4-H in gr. 5/6	13
4-H in gr. 4/7	14
Girl Scout Recruitment 3-4 pm Preschool Parent Engagement 10 am	
Gr. 7 to BCHS; 8:30 am-12 pm	15
Pupil Holiday; NO SCHOOL	18
4th Gr. Band Recruitment Parent Night @ BCHS; 6 pm	20
No Preschool PBIS Hat Day; \$1.00	22
Progress Reports Home	25
St. Jude's Bike-a-thon; 9-11:30 am	30

**From the Principal's Desk**

The days and weeks are flying by these days! I can't believe we are in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the school year already – how did that happen?

As I told the students, we still have a lot to accomplish over the next nine weeks. We need to make sure we are getting as much instructional time out of our school day as possible. With such a short amount of time left in the school year, I need everyone to stay focused while at school and put forth

their best effort. The weather is getting nicer and it's wonderful to spend more time outside but please make sure your children are getting plenty of sleep at night. This helps them be better prepared to learn when they get to school.

While we do have much left to accomplish instructionally, we also have many fun events coming with the close of the school year! Field Trips, Field Day, AR Reward Event, Hunter's Safety, ROAR Re-

ward, Awards Assembly, etc. More information on these events will be coming home as it is available.

Thank you again for everything you do. Let's continue to work together to ensure that we are doing our best for the children. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

**Preschool-Mrs. Brunner**

Preschool is so happy that spring has finally arrived! Even though there are usually a lot of rainy days, we are thrilled to be able to go outside again! It is so much fun to see the signs of spring like leaves back on the trees, flowers blooming, and birds returning from their winter migration. Take a walk with your child and see what signs of spring you can find together.

Every child at MES is given the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the school "R.O.A.R" pledge. The seventh grade starts at the beginning of the year, then sixth, and on down, even to preschool! We were so proud of our students this year as every single one chose to participate and say those pledges for the whole school on the office intercom. It is very intimidating for many young children, but they all rose to the challenge and did a great job!

We have completed our

themes of "Daily Life in Many Lands" and "Folk Stories on the Farm." In "Daily Life in Many Lands," we got to learn about other children all over the world. Some are very different than us: some go to school by radio and some get to school by riding in a helicopter or a ferry! But they are also just like us in many important ways: everyone laughs and everyone cries.

During "Folk Stories on the Farm," we learned about folk tales. Folk tales do not have an author because they are stories passed down from many generations. Usually, there are different versions of the same folk tale. For example, sometimes in the tale of The Three Little Pigs, sometimes the Big Bad Wolf catches the first two pigs, and sometimes they get away. In The Little Red Hen, sometimes the hen makes bread, but we also read versions where she made cake or even pizza!

We have just started our newest theme of "Measure Up." To celebrate April 1<sup>st</sup>, we took an "April Tool's Day" field trip to the Mertz Vocational Center and Cucci's to see how tools are used in different occupations. The students at Mertz did a fantastic job of demonstrating tools used in culinary, automotive, carpentry, electrical, technology, and keyboarding. The staff at Cucci's let us go into the kitchen and see how our pizza was made, and then we had it for lunch!

It's hard to believe there is only 9 weeks of school left! We can't wait to see how much more our preschool children will continue to learn and grow!



### Kindergarten-Mrs. Armstrong

The months of March and April have 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 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. We discussed symbols of Virginia as well as symbols for 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 afternoon on

### Second Grade-Mrs. Hepler

Spring is finally here! The students are enjoying the warmer weather in hopes that we can do more activities outside. The Third nine weeks have been full of challenges. Snow, delays and sickness has swept our room. As told to you in the beginning each nine weeks gets a little harder and more expectations are expected of your child. Your child is responsible for putting his homework in his folder themselves and for writing letters correctly in manuscript, 1 point will be taken off as you have seen in their spelling test. They must use punctuation in their sentences and make complete sentences.

The Third nine weeks in Reading we were working on cause and effect, main idea, vocabulary words, prefix and suffix, Before Reading, During reading and After reading, Identifying a paragraph, and putting proper endings on words. We will work on Tall Tales and writing and illustrating our

St. Patrick's Day. They first noticed green footprints on the wall in the hallway. They felt they certainly had to be the footprints of a leprechaun. They quietly followed the prints to Miss Reish's room hoping to see a leprechaun. They did not find a leprechaun but did find many things out of place such as chairs turned over, papers and pencils on the floor and a bag of treats for everyone. After they cleaned up the room, they enjoyed some of the treats while listening to stories about leprechauns and St. Patrick's Day. We did let them know at the end of the day that leprechauns were not real and it had actually been Miss Reish and myself messing up the room and left candy for everyone. Miss Reish also had other special treats for the students to help celebrate the day.

It's hard to believe that the end of the

own Tall Tale. We will read various Chapter books this nine weeks.

In Math we have reviewed all lessons taught previously. A few still need to practice money and subtraction. We have enjoyed working on three dimensional shapes. We enjoyed making them with oversized tinker toys, and newspaper rods.

In Science we studied animals and fossils. The students made fossils. We enjoyed being paleontologists as we were looking for dinosaur bones. Our next unit of study will be simple machines and measurement.

In Social Studies we worked on Famous Americans. Our class did awesome on this test. We then made puppets and are performing a puppet show. Our next unit of study will be on China and Egypt and then a review of all we studied.

In Language Arts we will work on homophones, more prefix and suffix,

year is near. For the remainder of the month of April, we will study spring animals, plants and "Earth Day". This also gives us an opportunity to talk about ways to help our earth by recycling, reusing and reducing the amount of water we use every day. We will also talk about saving electricity and how we can do this at home and at school.

In May, we will make gifts for moms for Mother's Day and we also make something for dads as well since we are not in school on Father's Day. We will prepare for our end of the year nursery rhyme show. We will read many nursery rhyme books and have each child choose a rhyme here at school to do for the show. The students will help make props and scenery for the program. It is a busy time ahead but will be lots of fun too.



contractions, possessives and poetry. We will continue writing in our Journal and learning cursive. I will send home their handwriting book for you to practice with over the summer. Please make sure you follow the model that was provided for you.

Students are still working on AR. We have extended the prizes to 30 points for an Ice Cream Party and 50 for a trophy. This is for Second Graders only. In years past we had many trophies. I hope your student will work to get this.

A letter will come home shortly of all the fun events we have planned. Please put this on your calendar so the students do not miss out.

I have seen tremendous growth in your child since the beginning of the year. Look over the VDOE website and you will see what your child has learned this year and what will be expected of them next year. We work hard and I am proud of your child.

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

The annual St. Jude's Bike-a-thon will be held on April 30 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am with a rain date May 1 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. It will be held at Millboro Elementary School. Information will be sent out on April 12 to students. If you have questions, call the school and leave a message for Mrs. Madison.



## Third Grade-Mrs. Madison

We have finished our handwriting books and we are doing our work in cursive. We also continue to read books and take AR tests to earn points toward our goal for the end of



the year celebration.

Multiplication facts keep us busy. We have flash card drills and mad minute sheets to help us learn the facts. We need to

practice every night. Mrs. Hicklin will begin her flash card test soon.

We had a program presented by the Children's Art Network on Ancient Greece which we enjoyed. We counted the money for Coins for a Cure. That was a big job but we had fun doing it. It became our specialty for a few weeks.

Mr. Hicklin and Mrs. Haney presented each of us with a dictionary. The dictionary is awesome!

The last nine weeks of school will find us studying civil rights



leaders and the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Mali in Social Studies. Water, rocks, and energy will be our units in Science. SOL testing will be in May. We will be busy, busy, busy until the last day of school in June!



## Fourth Grade-Ms. Manion

Fourth grade worked on fractions and decimals during the third nine weeks in math. We will continue to strengthen our understanding of them during the fourth nine weeks. In addition, we will be studying geometry – geometric transformations, lines, and polygons. We spent time during the third nine weeks working on converting units of measure from one to another. We will spend a lot more time on measurement during the fourth nine weeks.

The students took data from one of their science experiments and created graphs in Excel to share their data. That enabled them to review graphing and work on communicating experiment results which is something we are working on in science. We studied weather, force and motion, and part of our solar system curriculum during the third nine weeks. We will continue to study the solar system and work on Virginia resources to wrap up the year.

We finished the American Revolution early in the nine weeks. Then we went on the journey of creating a brand new nation with George

Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, and Patrick Henry. We went through the Civil War in Virginia. We have already traveled through Reconstruction in Virginia. We will be studying the "Jim Crow" era in the next couple of weeks as well as how the major events (World War I, The Great Depression, and World War II) of the nineteen hundreds affected Virginia.

Everyone continues to read different nonfiction and fiction books. Students started reading books about the Civil War battles and will continue until we finish that. They are also reading biographies at school of people of their choice. We continue to read books in the Swindle series by Gordon Korman. We will spend the last nine weeks focusing on the critical thinking parts of comprehension – drawing conclusions, making inferences, and identifying main ideas and details. Moreover, we will be working on poetry at the end of the year. Fourth grade worked on fractions and decimals during the third nine weeks in math. We will continue to strengthen our understanding of them during the fourth

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### First Grade-Mrs. Whitson



During the months of February and March, first graders really focused 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.

In the course of learning about President's Day and these important leaders, we are also working on money skills by learning which presidents are on specific coins. We have 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 – and hopefully quarters.

In addition to our famous Americans study, the students are working on



recognizing our national symbols and learning about traditional practices

that honor and foster patriotism in the United States. The children need to know 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 will have made a model of each, which included writing facts on them, and will hang them in the hallway.

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



### Counselor's Corner-Ms. Clarry

Over the past couple months, we have been talking about bucket-filling. All day, every day, we are either bringing others up by our words and actions, or we are bringing them down. When we make someone feel good, we are filling their bucket; which in turn fills our own bucket. When we are hurtful to someone, we are dipping into their bucket. This may fill our bucket for a little bit, but in the long run it ends up emptying ours also. We've practiced ways of giving quality compliments- those compliments you can only give after paying close attention to someone.

In March, we had a bucket-filling March Madness challenge. A bracket was set up in which each grade competed against one other grade, to see who wrote the most quality compliments. They literally filled buckets with their written compliments and at the end of each week, one grade moved on and the other was eliminated. For the final week, the top 2 teams (grades) competed in a basketball game in front of the whole school. This was part of our 9 weeks ROAR reward.

We are currently spending a couple weeks focusing on teamwork, with students working together to create a product of some sort. This is a short unit in which students practice problem-solving and communication by becoming "design engineers."

The remainder of the year will be focused on body health. This includes how to create the body we want through what we take in and what we exert through exercise. It also includes personal hygiene, physical safety and stress relief. With SOLs approaching soon, we will practice ways to relieve test anxiety and other stress factors in our lives.

As always, please reach out to me with questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions!



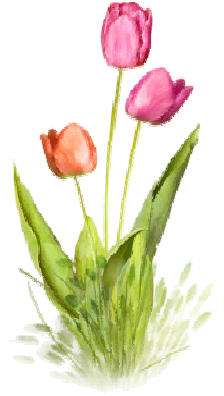
## Sixth & Seventh Grade Language Arts-Mrs. Secoy

### Sixth Grade Science-Mrs. Secoy

Sixth grade science has finished their study of the solar system, now. We are continuing to study watersheds and our nature trail. The students love going out to do water quality testing and have become excellent observational scientists! We will focus on watersheds for the next several weeks, as we begin looking at the data we've been collecting and decide what it means.

We've been very busy this quarter! 7<sup>th</sup> grade really enjoyed reading The Outsider's and 6<sup>th</sup> grade read My Side of the Mountain as we studied the elements of fiction. Everyone got the chance to apply their understanding to their own written fictional stories, and the results were amazing! Many students are still working on their stories outside of class, and they will have class time to continue writing toward the beginning of May.

Right now we are exploring both reading and writing poetry. Looking for figurative language in popular music always appears to be a favorite part of this unit, and a few students have even started writing their own anthem! 6<sup>th</sup> grade has used figurative language to define an emotion, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade is exploring everything from poetry using onomatopoeia to narrative poems expressing the evils of bullying and their concerns and excitement about moving to the high school next year.



### 7th Grade Life Science-Mrs. Secoy

After creating an entire population of paper pets, who survived spotted nose malady and a move to the jungle while evolving as a species, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science has shifted into our study of biomes, ecosystems, and relationships between organisms. They recently finished creating their own ecosystem with at least two moving organisms. I'm amazed at their creativity as they find ways to ensure each organism has everything they need to survive. I can't wait to see the ways the organisms move!

### 7th Grade Math- Mr. Crawford

In seventh grade math, we've covered all of material and are now in review mode. Students have been creating their own lesson plans and teaching different standards. It was fun to be the student again! I even made sure to raise my hand.

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Math

### Title I Reading-Ms. Forbes

Students in Title I have been working very hard. Upper grades are mastering word attack skills, using context clues, making inferences, and locating key details to back up their answer choices to comprehension questions. The lower grades have been focusing on rhyming words, word families, beginning word sounds, sequencing the events in a story, and defining unknown vocabulary using context clues.

We had a great time celebrating Read Across America week throughout the whole building! Dr. Seuss's birthday

was very special since we were able to enjoy a new published work, What Pet Should I Get?, that was found in his home after his passing.

On Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Family Reading Night that will focus on strategies that can be used during the summer to prevent the backwards slide of what students learned throughout the year. Each family will receive a summer tote with activities full of strategies to use during the summer as well as a delicious pizza dinner. Students will get to choose a book and enjoy a read aloud and



related activity while parents will receive training on the strategies included in their summer tote. Books for parents as well as donations from local business and restaurants will be given away as door prizes! Don't miss your opportunity for fun summer passes and gift cards! Keep an eye out for the registration form to follow in a few weeks. We hope to see you there!!



**Music-Mrs. Lindsay**

During the third nine weeks, students have been busy studying Patriotic Music. All students (1-4) have been assigned a patriotic song to learn. First graders learned “This Land is Your Land.” Second grade students learned “America the Beautiful.” The third grade class learned “Star Spangled Banner.” These students are not only learning the words of these songs but we are also learning what the words really mean. The fourth graders discussed the Virginia State Song. We have heard the old state song and learned the “interim” State Song which was “Oh Shenandoah.” We were then introduced to our new State Song which is “Our Great Virginia.”

Students in fifth grade will be

learning the Fifty States in Rhyme. What a fun song this is! Fifth Graders have been discussing the development of Pop Music. We have related our study to the economic and cultural developments in the United States. We started around 1900 and are moving forward. We have discussed about half of the twentieth century thus far. We are learning about styles of music that were popular as well as the dances and listening devices of each decade. We have discovered so much already! Sixth Grade students are learning about the development and changes in Classical Music. We have discussed four of the six periods of music so far. We have learned about the development of instruments, changes in musical style as well as several

important composers. Seventh grade students are currently watching the musical “The King and I.” We have talked about the characteristics of a musical. We are enjoying seeing the very different culture! They will soon begin learning to play the guitar. We will learn to read some notes and play a few simple melodies and chords.

All classes continue to build the repertoire of songs. Also, we continue to build our understanding of musical symbols and signs. We recognize the symbols in written songs as well as listening examples. Musical notation is another important area that we continue to learn about.

It has been a great year!

**5th Grade Language Arts/Science-Mrs. Bayne**

This school year is flying like a jet and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are super stars! As you can tell we are learning about similes and metaphors in Language Arts. We are continuing our poetry unit into the fourth quarter and look forward to learning more about figurative language. SOL tests are right around the corner and we are gearing up with knowledge!

In Science this quarter we completed a unit on elements. We had visits from both 4-H and Mountain, Soil and Water based on the periodic table and its elements. We also learned about living cells. 5<sup>th</sup> grade did an awesome job on their plant and animal cell projects. We had everything from animal and plant cell cakes and cookies to playdoh

cell models. They were displayed in the Cafeteria for the day so that other students could enjoy them too. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will bring more studies about animals, adaptations and their environments. We are looking forward to learning in our last quarter as 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

**5, 6, 7 Social Studies-Mr. 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 making historical action figures right

now and will finish the year off with the Civil War.

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 moved into the Cold War. Speaking of the Cold War, we had a blast visiting the bunker at The Greenbrier!

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. 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!

**Dates to Remember in May**

Mountain Soil & Water Visits	5
Family Reading Night 6 pm	
Bookmobile Visits; 2:45-4 pm	10
4-H in gr. 5/6	11
4-H in gr. 4/7	12
Gr. 7 Civics SOL	13
Band Concert/Art Show at BCHS 2 pm	15
Gr. 7 Reading SOL	16
Gr. 6 Reading SOL	17
Gr. 7 Math SOL	18
Gr. 4 VA Studies SOL	
Gr. 3 Reading SOL	19
Gr. 5 Science SOL	
No Preschool	20
Gr. 6 Math SOL	
Gr. 4/5 Reading SOL	23
Gr. 3 Math SOL	24
Gr. 4/5 Math SOL	25
SOL Retakes	26
SOL Retakes	27
Memorial Day-NO SCHOOL	30
Field Day 8:30-10:30	31
Gr. 4-7	
Gr. PS-3	
Gr. 6 Hunter Safety	

**Dates to Remember in June**

Gr. 6 Hunter Safety	1
AR Trip	
Gr. 7 Promotion; 6 pm	2
ROAR Reward	
Gr. 3/4; 10 am-12 pm	
Gr. 5-7; 12-2 pm	
Last Day of School	3
Classbook Signing 8:30 am	
Awards Ceremony; 9 am	
Early Release 12:30 pm	



## Band-Mrs. Hooker

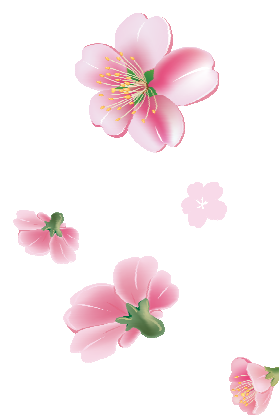
MES Bands are having a great time in class and are learning new rhythms, notes and awesome concert pieces! Time always seems to fly!

Each band is working hard to prepare for the spring concert on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 3PM in the BCHS Auditorium. We invite you to join us for an "Afternoon with the Arts!" The county art show will begin at 2PM, concert at 3PM and then the art show will continue for a short time after the performance. Please join us if you can and share in this showcase of student talent!!

The elementary bands are also planning their annual trip to Kings Dominion. The trip has been requested for Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. As soon as we receive approval, students will bring home a permission slip and request for parent chaperones. Per the band handbook, all band students must attend the band concerts and have no discipline referrals in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in order to participate in the trip. We always have a ball!

Lastly, if you have a seventh grade band student that is planning on participating in high school band, please make sure you have Band Camp 2016 marked on your calendar. Band Camp is mandatory for all band students and will be held July 24-28, 2016 at Grace Bible Camp☺

Musically Yours, Mrs. Hooker



### Coins For A Cure



\$887.92 was raised during this fundraiser.

Thank you for your support!!

### NEW FACULTY MEMBER TO MES

Hello! My name is Charity Reish and I am excited to be here at Millboro Elementary. I have been teaching at Valley Elementary for the last 3 ½ years. I am a graduate of Longwood University and I have been teaching full time for 6 years. I taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade for 4 years and 1 year of 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This year I have been co-teaching in all grades from Kindergarten to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I am here to Co-teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Language Arts in the morning and Kindergarten Math and Science/Social Studies in the afternoons. I am thankful to be here and to be working with your children.



Young Miss Clarry

became

Old Miss Clarry!

