

Wildcat Mews

From the Principal's Desk



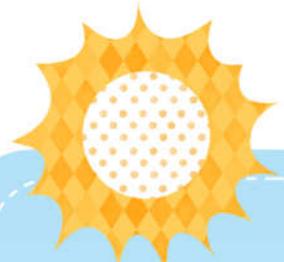
The days and weeks are flying by these days! I can't believe we are in the 4th quarter of the school year already – how did that happen?

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 Reward, 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 we are doing our best for the children. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.



Important Dates

- 04/10 Family Life Begins; Gr. 4-7
- 04/11 Bookmobile Visits 2:45-4 pm
Board of Supervisor's Mtg 7 pm
- 04/12 Mountain Soil & Water; Gr. 4-7
Head Start Family Fun 10 am
Family Life Ends; Gr. 4-7
- 04/13 Early Release 12:30 pm
- 04/14-18 Easter Break
- 04/19 4-H Visits Gr. 4-7
- 04/26 Progress Reports Go Home
- 04/27 Gr. 2/3 to Frontier Culture Museum; 8:45 am-2:30 pm
- 04/28 No Preschool
PBIS Hat/Pajama Day \$1
- 04/29 Bike-a-Thon; 9-11 am
- 04/30 RAINDATE: Bike-a-Thon 2-4 pm
- 05/02 School Board Mtg at MES; 7 pm
- 05/04 Gr. 7 to Williamsburg/VA Beach; Leaving at 6 am
Gr. 6 Hunter Safety
Family Reading Night 6 pm
- 05/05 Gr. 7 Returning at 10 pm
Gr. 6 Hunter Safety
- 05/07-12 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 05/09 Bookmobile Visits 2:45-4 pm
- 05/10 Mountain Soil & Water; Gr. 4-7
- 05/11 Gr. 7 Reading SOL
- 05/12 No Preschool
Gr. 4/6 Reading SOL
- 05/16 Gr. 3/5 Reading SOL
- 05/17 4-H Visits; Gr. 4-7
Gr. 7 Math SOL
Head Start Parent Engagement 5:15 pm

SOL Testing May 11 through May 24

Get Plenty of Rest

Eat a Healthy Breakfast

Wear Comfortable Clothes

(Dress in layers to compensate for different room temperatures.)

Keep Your Morning Routine Positive & Upbeat





Preschool

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 lead 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*, 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." We are learning about many different ways things can be measured. There are standard measurements such as inches or feet, but non-standard measurements can use almost anything. You could measure your family couch by how many hands it takes to go across or see how tall your dog is when measured by dog biscuits. (Just be prepared to give the dog one of those biscuits afterwards!)

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

The month of March has been busy. The students have studied 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. 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 the United States and the signs of freedom. Once we completed this last unit about Virginia, the students colored and cut out pictures reflecting information we have talked about in Social Science during the past few weeks. The pictures are now on the front of their folders.



Hopefully they can remember details about each picture and can explain this information to you from time to time.



We have worked on different STEM activities in the room and I am impressed at how well the students worked together as a team to do their activities. We did our first STEM activity by collecting 100 items on day 100. Each team was to decide how to collect the items and then build something together with the items. They did a great job and we ended up with many different things. On our next STEM activity day, the students were divided into small teams and again had to collect certain items to achieve their goal. I had asked them to build a tower with what they had collected. They worked hard on their assignment and did a great job.

During the last few weeks, we will talk about community helpers along with spring animals and plants. In May, we will start discussing nursery rhymes to prepare for our nursery rhyme show for the end of the year.



First Grade-Mrs. Sizemore

First graders have been so busy learning this nine weeks. We have been reading, reading, reading. We have read books about famous Americans like Martin Luther King Jr, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. We learned about the Iditarod Sled dog race and read a book about a sled dog. In March, we read books about Leprechauns and we did a STEM project in which students designed and built traps to catch a Leprechaun!

In math, we became addition and subtraction Ninja masters and have learned about place value and ordering numbers. Students had a great time learning to compare numbers because they got to pretend they were alligators who eat the biggest number. Mrs. Sizemore's students have continued using IXL to practice math skills and have already solved over **25,000** math problems as a class. AMAZING!

1st grade
ROCKS

In science this nine weeks, we became educated about weather and seasons and how they affect people and animals. We learned about different types of precipitation and wondered why there wasn't more precipitation in the form of snow this winter. We have also been learning about the sun, moon, and stars and why we have day and night.

In Social Studies, we investigated facts about famous Americans and learned about maps and cardinal directions. We read maps and used a compass rose to

find the direction of things on the map. We also had a great time making our own maps and using Ozobot robots to follow the directions we gave them to navigate them.

I am looking forward to the fourth nine weeks. We will keep working hard and finish the year strong!



Important Dates (continued)

05/18	Gr. 4 VA Studies SOL Gr. 5 Science SOL
05/19	Gr. 7 Civics SOL
05/23	Gr. 3/5 Math SOL
05/24	Gr. 4/6 Math SOL Preschool Celebration
05/25	SOL Retakes Kg. Nursery Rhymes
05/26	SOL Retakes Field Day; 8:30-10:30 am
05/29	Memorial Day/ No School
05/31	ROAR Reward Field Day Makeup Forestry Fun Day 3:30 pm; Gr. 4-7
06/01	Gr. 7 Promotion 6 pm
06/02	Awards Ceremony 8:45 am Classbook Signing Last Pupil Day Early Release 12:30 pm

** Dates Subject to Change**

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 having many discussions about these famous presidents, the children made a facial model of Abraham Lincoln and wrote important facts about him on a 'log cabin'. They also made a model of George Washington, along with a Washington Monument replica.

In the course of learning about President's Day and the important leaders of our past, we also worked on money skills. We learned which presidents are on specific coins and also learned other ways to identify each of the coins, which included a poem and a song for each. Needless to say, the children should now be able to recognize all



coins and state their values. They should also know how to count coin combinations using pennies and nickels, pennies and dimes, and pennies, nickels, and dimes. Several students have actually mastered counting quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies combinations!



In addition to our famous Americans study, the students are working on recognizing a few of our national symbols. They are also learning about traditional practices that honor and foster patriotism in the United States. The children need to know the following symbols and landmarks, which include the American flag, bald eagle, Washington Monument, and the Statue of Liberty. Subsequent to learning about these symbols, the students make a model of each, which includes writing facts on them, and hang 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.



Third Grade

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 have begun 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 programs presented by the Children's Art Network on Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and Ancient Mali which we enjoyed.

We counted the money for Coins for a Cure. What a job! But we were up to the task and did a great job!



The last nine weeks of school will find us studying civil rights leaders and the ancient civilizations of Greece and Mali in Social Studies. Water, rocks, and energy will be the units in Science.

We will be taking IA tests in April in Reading and Math to see how much we have progressed from our test in September. PALS testing in Reading/Spelling will be in early May to see how we have progressed from our mid-year test in January. SOL testing in Reading and Math will be in May. We will be busy, busy, busy until the last day of school in June!

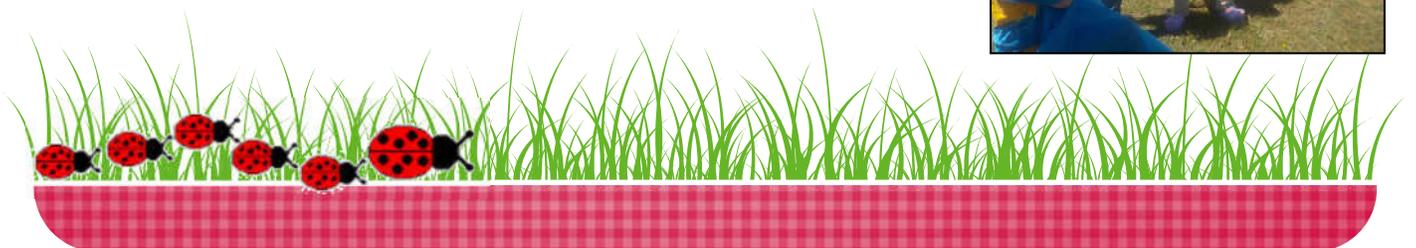


Coins For A Cure



Students enjoyed cupcakes, free computer lab time, and seeing staff members have whipped cream pies thrown at them for meeting our goal.

Thank you for your support!!



Fourth Grade



Fourth grade math was all about fractions for the fourth nine weeks. We

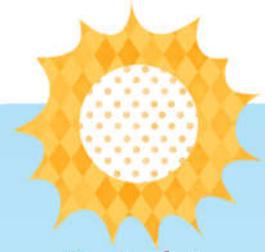
worked on adding and subtracting fractions as well as ordering and comparing them. We started by finding equivalent fractions. Now we are working on finding decimal equivalents of fractions. We also are working on comparing and ordering decimals. Reviewing place value and rounding is also part of our decimal unit. Then we will finish working on measurement. For us that means learning how to change one unit of measure to another. We need to continue learning about the basic geometric shapes. We will return to working on patterns and properties of addition and multiplication during the fourth nine weeks.

Students incorporated science and English standards together during the fourth nine weeks. They worked on researching the planets found in our solar system and writing up that information in a report. We continued to work on main idea and details as well as drawing conclusions/making inferences during the third nine weeks. In addition, we worked on finding language, sensory words, information, setting, and characters in our passages that supported the author's purpose.

We still have several books we would like to read before the end of school. We will do more work with word parts as part of our end of year review.

We started the third nine weeks wrapping up the American Revolution in Virginia Studies. Then we created the United States and its government. We spent a large portion of the third nine weeks on the Civil War and how it impacted Virginia. Currently we are studying Reconstruction. Then we will look at how the major events of the twentieth century impacted Virginia and commence reviewing all of our information for the SOL test.

Students looked at the different parts of our solar system during the third nine weeks. We talked about how the Moon, Earth, and Sun impact each other specifically why we have day and night and the seasons. At the beginning of the nine weeks we studied motion and force. Currently, we are trying to observe the vernal pools and make observations once a week. There are amphibians using the vernal pools. It's been exciting to see tadpoles. (Please do not go and add anything to the vernal pools. They are an entire little ecosystem of their own.) We will be studying plants during the last nine weeks as well.

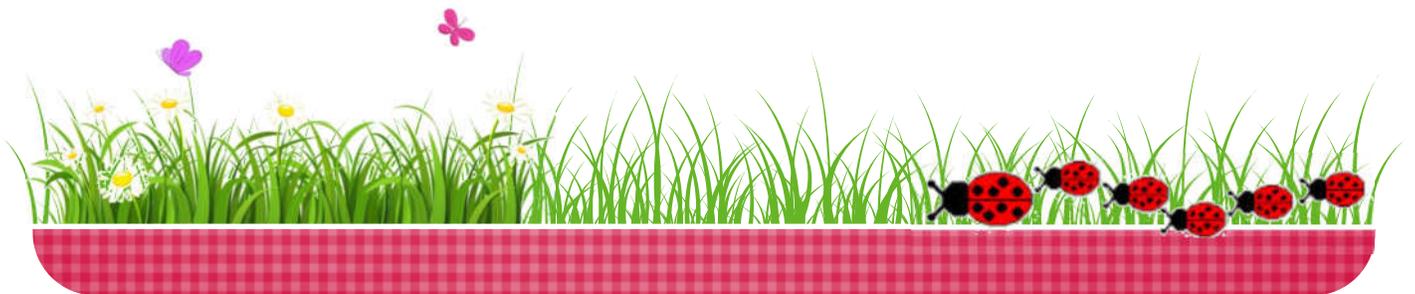


St. Jude's

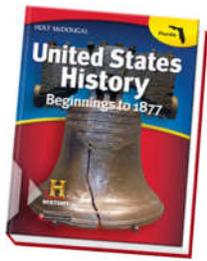
Bike-a-thon

After 22 years of coordinating the Bike-a-thon, I am turning the job over to Mrs. Trish Alphin. I want to thank the riders, their parents, and the sponsors for all of their support over the years. This year's event is on April 29 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am with a rain date April 30th from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm. It will be held at Millboro Elementary School and I hope you will continue to support this great fundraiser for St. Jude.

If you have questions, call the school or Trish Alphin at 540.997.0611.



Social Studies



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 5th 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 just made historical action figures and will finish the year off with the Civil War. We also took a trip to Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson!

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 20th century, we moved in to one of the darkest times of the 20th 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!

Band

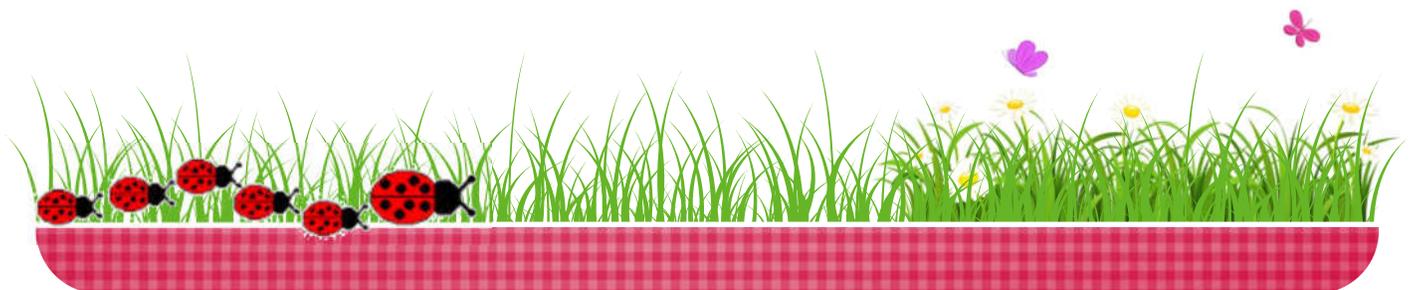


The Millboro Elementary bands have been working hard this quarter on new spring music! The 5th grade is especially excited to learn a piece entitled "March of the Romans." They are doing a wonderful job! The sixth and seventh graders have one piece down and are just beginning to work on a second concert piece. They have learned lots of new notes, rhythms and theory terms!

At the end of January, several MES students participated in All Area Band at Covington HS. They auditioned in November and performed with students from neighboring counties. They learned 4 pieces in two days and the performance was fantastic! The following students participated: Hannah Heffler, Kayla Elledge, Sarah Eaton, Kaitlyn Hall and Kimmy Graham.

On March 24 & 25, we were invited to celebrate Music In Our Schools Month with Alleghany County and Covington City Schools. Lettie Alphin, Sarah Eaton, Kaitlyn Hall and Kimmy Graham all performed in the middle school combined band. The groups performed at the Masonic Theater on Sat, March 25. It was a beautiful performance and gorgeous theater!

All the band students have been working hard and are looking forward to showcasing their talents on May 21st at the SPRING BAND CONCERT! The concert begins at 6PM at Bath County High School. There will also be a county art show from 4-6PM. Come out and join us for An Evening With The Arts!



6th & 7th Language Arts

We've been very busy this quarter! 7th grade really enjoyed reading The Outsider's and 6th grade read My Side of the Mountain as we studied the elements of fiction.



Right now we are exploring research, and we've made some exciting changes to our classroom structure! Instead of standing in the front of the room teaching the same lesson to all students, at the same time (and only

teaching the lesson once), I'm creating short video lessons. Students are able to watch the videos whenever they are ready for that lesson, and they can re-watch it as many times as necessary to understand the concept. This "Flipped Classroom" model allows me to spend our class time traveling around the room helping students understand and cite their research, reading student writing, and having great discussions about what the role of research in their lives!



This instructional shift has allowed 6th grade students the flexibility to really work at their own pace. Some students went very in-depth with their research and spent a lot of time hungrily reading about their topic! Other students found fascinating information more quickly and are spending more time using their research to inform their writing. Many of these students are turning their traditional essay into one piece of a much larger writing project that may include diary entries, text messages, and other creative writing that share true information about their topic.

The impact on 7th grade has been just as positive! In addition to giving students more individual flexibility, the video lessons have allowed me the time and

7th Grade Math

In seventh grade math we've covered all SOLs and are now in review mode. Please encourage your child to continue working as hard as they have all year 😊

opportunity to discuss concepts, reading, and persuasive writing with individuals and small groups. We've talked about what "school culture" means and what makes an argument stronger (anecdotal stories, persuasive language, well-documented research). Students have been able to craft well-



written introductions and some very creative conclusions, in addition to supporting their position in preparation for our debates.

While we are not following a true "Flipped Instruction" model,

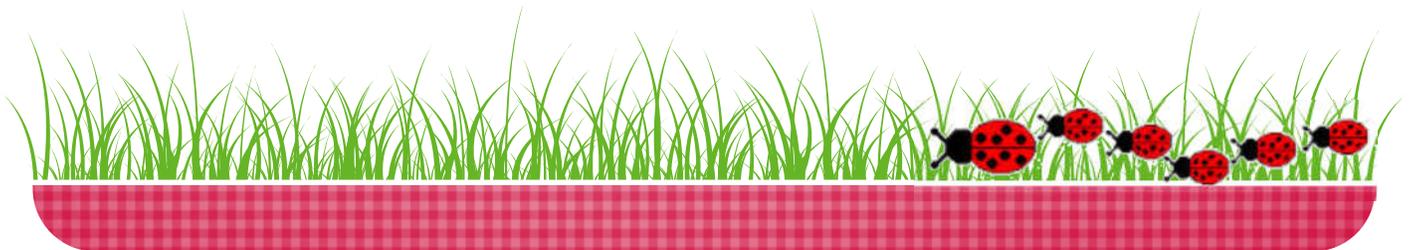
since I expect students to watch the lessons during class – not before, the students are enjoying greater independence and flexibility to make their education meet their needs and interests. At the same time, I'm loving having the increased time and opportunity to work with students on their individual reading, writing, and thinking!

6th Grade Science

6th grade science is well into our study of the solar system, now. They are really interested in all of the new data about Pluto that has come from the arrival of the New Horizons probe! We are continuing to study watersheds and our nature trail, as well. 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.

7th Grade Life Science

After creating an entire population of paper pets, who survived spotted nose malady and a move to the jungle while evolving as a species, 7th grade science has shifted into our study of biomes, ecosystems, and relationships between organisms.



Music

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.

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 Grade's patriotic song is This Land is Your Land.

Second grade is currently learning about the trumpet, flute, violin and bass drum. Students will be able 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. Third grade is studying the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem!

Fourth graders are currently learning to play the Re-

Recorder. Students will continue working with the recorder until the 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 – Our Great Virginia.

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. Next we will be talking about musicians that have had to overcome big obstacles in their lives.



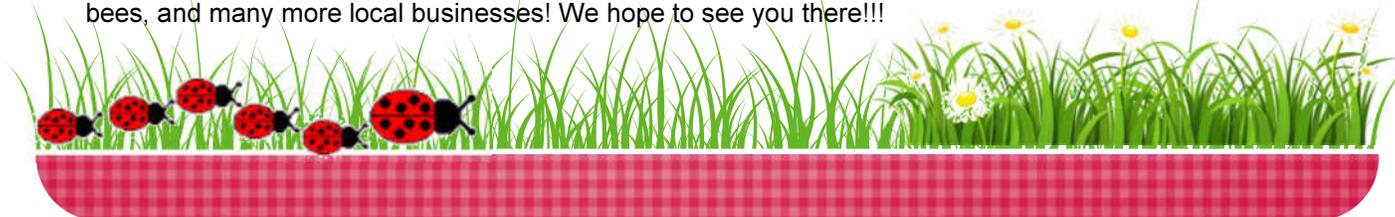
Title I



Happy April MES students and families!

Title I has been very busy! We had a great time celebrating Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss's birthday from February 27th to March 3rd. Students were able to participate in special dress up days that related to the featured Dr. Seuss book for that day. Our next big event is coming up! Our spring Family Reading Night will be held Thursday, May 4th, at 6:00pm. Be on the lookout for the RSVP! Our FRN theme is "Reading Around the World." Dinner will consist of pizza (plenty of it!), veggies, and cake for dessert. Each family will get a world traveler tote filled with strategies and activities to use at home, especially during the summer, with your children.

Guest readers will join us at MES and read stories that are from different countries and the children will get to make something special to go along with it! Of course, each student will get a free book to take home. Many door prizes have been donated for this special event. Prizes were donated from Tractor Supply, Cucci's of Bath County (under new management!), Country Café, VIP Nails, Apples, and many more local businesses! We hope to see you there!!!



Fifth Grade Science & Language Arts

Once again, we are finishing another quarter and wow did it go fast! In 5th grade Science we spent time exploring animals and oceans. We learned about the five Kingdoms of living things and how the largest is the animal kingdom. The students researched an animal to learn about its adaptation and how it helps the animal to survive. We also learned about the motions of the ocean water. Did you know that there are giant patches of garbage caught up in the currents of the Pacific Ocean? We also learned about how what we do here in Bath county can affect the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, so please recycle, reuse and don't pollute our waters.



In 5th grade Language Arts we read and applied our reading knowledge to the novel, "The Sign of the Beaver" before viewing the movie. We decided that the book was much more enjoyable than the movie! We also did some research and read biography books. Our library had many interesting famous people to read about, but each student settled on one person and read a biography book about them. After reading the book, the students then wrote an essay about them, completed a timeline and created a biography gift box for their biography person. The biography gift boxes will be in the library for a few more weeks if you would like to stop by and enjoy them.

With Spring, comes poetry. 5th grade has really enjoyed learning about figurative language and then listening for it when we read or in what others say. They come to school excited to be the first one to share an idiom with the class. Some of the idioms we have heard are, "when pigs fly", "tougher than a two dollar bill" and "by the skin of your teeth". All of these idioms have meaning, but the meanings are not to be taken literally. This quarter, we will apply what we know about figurative language to what we write in poetry. I can't wait to see what this creative group of students will come up with.



Physical Education

The gym at MES has been a busy place. The Iditarod dog sled race took place at MES. Students in grades K-7 were busy getting sleds ready for the event. Classes were introduced to the race by watching parts of the 2017 race live and class discussions.

We discussed the weather conditions, the dogs (keeping them healthy and their position on the sled team), supplies you would carry with you on the sled and the human member of the team, the musher.

The students were presented with a task. Design and build a dog sled that would stay together when pulled by the dogs (other members of the team) and carry the musher with a sturdy hand hold. Once the design teams had their idea complete with drawing, directions, and supply list – the building started.

Teams were supplied with rope, duct tape, cardboard and pvc pipe to build their dog sleds. They had a week to complete this task – if they tried their design out and something did not work out they could fix it. The students did their measuring and decided how they wanted pvc pipe cut.

Sleds were tested and modified and the final product was ready. The goal for the sleds and team members was for everything to make it the length of the gym with dogs, sleds, and mushers all together.

The teams made their final runs and were very successful. After the run, team participants told the class what changes had been made during the construction phase and explained changes they would make to the sled after the sled run.

The students were engaged, excited and extremely proud of the sleds they designed and made. Sadie Alphin added two wonderful drawings of husky sled dogs for the bulletin board to complete the Iditarod adventure.



