

Wildcat News

From the Principal's Desk - Mrs. Hicklin

Greetings from Millboro Elementary School! We are more than half way through the school year – hard to believe!

Staff and students are working very hard to get into an instructional rhythm to make sure all students are making forward progress. In order for your child to have a productive day at school, please make sure they are getting plenty of rest at night and a good breakfast in the morning. If your child eats breakfast at school, please get them here at 8:00 so they have plenty of time to eat breakfast and get to class

on time. Starting the day off late or hungry can sometimes change the course of a student's entire day.

Also, we have been enjoying a mild winter so far but that could change at any time. Snow days are disruptive to learning but they are a part of life in Bath County. At a minimum, please make sure your child is reading on snow days. In addition, all students have a login and password to the iXL website (www.iXL.com/signin/bathcps) and can use it on non-school days, provided they have access to the internet.

Spending just 30 minutes a day on iXL would be very beneficial to your child. Classroom teachers will also be providing additional resources that can be used on snow days. Thank you for any help you can provide during this missed instructional time.

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 has been busy both before Christmas and after. Before the winter break, we had a Family Fun Event in which the children and their parents worked together to make gingerbread houses. During this activity, the children were able to talk about shapes, colors, and counting while using their creativity to make their houses unique.

We are looking forward to another great Family Fun Event on February 8. We hope all of our children can have at least one family member attend.

We also had a great visit from Santa Claus before the break. The children were excited to see him, sit on his lap, and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. We had a visit that week from "Santa Paws" as well.

After the break, we have been discussing "Changes Around Us," which includes hibernation, animal homes and seasons. We recycled Mrs. Brunner's Christmas

tree by placing it outside and making different kinds of food to hang from it to feed birds and deer. We strung cereal on red yarn and rolled pine cones in peanut butter then bird seed.

Our class has grown too! We are happy to now have a class of 16 children!



Dates to remember in January:

Report Cards Go Home	23
Children's Art Network; Gr. 3; 9:30-11 am K; 12-1:30 pm	25
No Preschool	27
DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	30

Dates to remember in February:

DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	6
School Board Mtg. 7 pm; MES	7

Mountain Soil & Water Visits

Head Start Family Fun; 10 am	
Children's Art Network Gr. 1; 9:30-11 am Gr. 2; 12-2:30 pm	8

DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	
DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	13

Bookmobile Visits 2:45-4 pm

Board of Supervisor's Mtg. 7 pm	14
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4-H Visits; Gr. 4-7	
DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	15

No Preschool	17
Hat Day; \$1.00	

DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	20
DI Practice 3:30-5:30 pm	

Children's Art Network Gr. 5; 10:30 am-12 pm Gr. 3; 1-2:30 pm	22
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Pupil Holiday; NO SCHOOL

Parent Conferences; 1-4 pm & 4:30-7 pm	23
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Pupil Holiday; NO SCHOOL

	26
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Kindergarten - Mrs. Armstrong

The Kindergarten Class has been very busy since returning from Christmas break. We started the month of January talking about winter weather and winter animals. We talked about what animals do in the winter to survive the cold winter months. We read the story **The After Christmas Tree by Linda Wagner Tyler**. It's a wonderful story that tells what a family does with their Christmas tree to help animals after the holiday season. They had a winter party in the story to make



food for the animals to help them through the winter.

We decided to help the animals near our homes by making bird feeders too. We made feeders with paper rolls, peanut butter and bird seed. The children took these feeders home to hang outside to help the birds and squirrels. We also discussed how we need to continue feeding the animals if possible for they will return in hopes of finding more food.

We studied Martin Luther King, Jr. by singing songs and reading books about this famous American. I have been impressed at how much the students have learned about his life growing up and how he wanted to make things fair for everyone. Some of the students can also remember an important part of his famous speech given in Washington, D.C. The class has been very sur-

prised at how things were very different many years ago with signs posted for "Whites Only" at restaurants, swimming pools, theaters and playgrounds. They now know why Dr. King wanted a fair world for everyone.

We will be studying other famous Americans during the month of February. We will talk about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The students will learn about their lives as they grew up and important facts about each while they served as president of the United States. We will also talk about Virginia along with our state flag, bird, tree and flower. The students will learn facts about our country's flag as well. February is a short month but will be a busy one in Kindergarten.

Dates to remember in March:	
School Board Mtg; 7 pm; VES	7
Mountain Soil & Water Visits	
Children's Art Network Gr. 4; 12:30-2 pm	8
No Preschool	10
Bookmobile Visits; 2:45-4 pm	14
4-H Visits; Gr. 4-7	
Head Start Parent Engagement 5:15 pm	15
Gr. 6 Greenbrier 8:45am-3pm	20
Children's Art Network Gr. 3; 10-11:30 am Gr. 2; 12:30-2 pm	22
End 3rd Marking Period	23
Talent Show	
Pupil Holiday; NO SCHOOL	24
Spring Pictures	29
Gr. 4/5 Monticello ; 8:30am-3pm	31

First Grade - Mrs. Sizemore

Can you believe we are already half way through this school year? We really packed a lot of learning and fun into our second nine weeks in Mrs. Sizemore's first grade class.

We have read some fantastic books together in reading class this nine weeks. In November, we read about turkeys, and Thanksgiving. In December, we read about December holidays and learned all about reindeer and created a reindeer fact book. We even read the book **Snow Day** and then had a few! Students have learned to find the main idea and theme in stories while reading. We have practiced summarizing stories and have compared and contrasted fiction and

nonfiction. Students are greatly improving on fluency by reading weekly poems aloud. We have grown so much as readers this nine weeks! Keep practicing at home; it is definitely paying off.

Students have become Ninja fact masters in math. They have been studying addition and subtraction facts and are earning different colored Ninja belts as they master the facts for each number. They are using their addition and subtraction knowledge to complete story problems and complete fact families. Mrs. Sizemore's students have been using IXL to practice math skills in class and at home and have already solved over 5000 math problems as a class. WOW!

In science, we have learned about animals and their needs. Students learned to classify animals and learned how animals grow and change. Students were able to show their understanding of animals by creating Lego animals and filming stop motion movies in which they showed the animals moving about their habitats.

In Social Studies, we talked about the voting process on Election Day, the difference between needs and wants, and we are now learning about maps and where our country and state are located in our world.

Keep up the fantastic work. We are going to have a terrific second half of the year!

Cafeteria Corner

I would like to thank the Citizens for Education for providing ice cream to all the students who performed at the Christmas Concert. I know first-hand they all enjoyed it very much.

Our students have become very good at making lunch choices. It's important they all understand what makes up a complete lunch. We are fortunate to have fresh fruits and vegetables available to us every week. I see more and more students choosing fresh green salad every day. We recently offered Caesar salad from a special student made menu that turned out to be a huge hit. We do plan to offer this salad option more often.

Watch for a "cafeteria news" link on the MES website ~ coming soon!

As always your children make me smile every day. I am fortunate to have a job that I love, in a town that I love, serving children that I have come to love, as well. For any questions, concerns or otherwise please email me anytime. stacys@bath.k12.va.us

Third Grade - Mrs. Madison



We wrote letters to our families this nine weeks. We wrote thank you notes to the Ruritans for our dictionaries and to Mr. Hicklin for visiting us and talking about county government. We also wrote a letter to our teacher.

The Christmas Program was a success. Our

class had a great turnout for the program and did a wonderful job!

We enjoy GoNoodle several days of the week. The students who are participating in the AR program met the end of the 2nd 9 weeks goal!

We welcomed a new student to our class when



we returned in January.

The third nine weeks will be busy as well. In math we will be working on multiplication, fractions, and geometrical figures. In Science we will be working on simple machines, the water cycle, and the weather. Economics is the main topic in Social Studies. We will be reading more chapter books in class and at home. We will continue to work in the handwriting books and will begin writing in cursive on our work soon.



MES ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

The talent show will take place on Thursday, March 23rd. Please plan to come and see the amazing talent we have at MES! Time TBA.

Fourth Grade - Ms. Manion

Fourth grade spent the second nine weeks on multiplication, division, and elapsed time. We will continue to work on elapsed time to the nearest minute until we are finished with elapsed time. The upcoming nine weeks will mainly focus on fractions and decimals in math. We will also be working on measurement. What measures weight, mass, length, and liquid volume? How do you change from one unit of measure to another? Those are the measurement concepts we will study as part of science as well as math. Depending on how much time we miss, we might make it to geometry as well. We study basic geometric shapes and geometric transformations.

Fourth grade read several books and reading passages during the second nine weeks working on identifying the main idea and supporting details. They also worked on identifying causes and effects of events in reading and in history. We will continue to work on cause and effect as well as main idea and supporting details. We are currently working on identifying the way an author uses language to support his/her purpose. We will continue working on analyzing how

the setting, characters, and information contribute to the author's purpose. We will also work on inferences and drawing conclusions during the third nine weeks. We discussed context clues and worked on using them to understand unfamiliar words in our reading text during the last couple of months. We will be working more on word parts and word reference materials during the third nine weeks.

Students have really discussed nouns and verbs and how they are used in complete sentences. We will be moving our focus to adjectives and adverbs during the third nine weeks. In addition we are beginning to work on researching a topic. We will probably work on short writing assignments that can be done in a short amount of time just in case we miss a lot of time.

Last nine weeks we went through colonial Virginia. We started studying the Road to the American Revolution when we returned in January. We will study Virginia's part in the American Revolution, the creation of the United States including the government, and then we will skim over the time from the late 1700s in Virginia to the Civil War. We will hopefully be studying

the Civil War in February and reconstructing Virginia in March. It all depends on the weather. We will finish the year's curriculum in April so we have a solid month to review the information here at school.

We studied ecosystems, their parts, and what jobs living and nonliving things play in an ecosystem. We still need to go back and look at how humans impact ecosystems. We also studied weather. We will continue to review weather as we practice predicting weather during the winter months. Now we are moving on to force, motion, and energy. We talk about speech and direction, force and friction, and kinetic and potential energy. We will also study electricity this nine weeks. They build closed and open circuits as well as series and parallel circuits. We might make it to the beginning of the solar system and the relationship between the Earth, Sun, and Earth's Moon or that might be the beginning of the fourth nine weeks.

Fifth Grade - Mrs. Bayne

5th grade just finished an awesome second quarter in Science class. We learned about sound energy and the students did a fantastic job displaying their knowledge and their creative sides in the music makers that they created for class. They learned about the properties of matter and how temperature is responsible for the changes in the three main states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. But if you ask them what was their favorite part about Science this quarter, I'll bet they will tell you about the

translucent, transparent and opaque ornaments they made last December. Be sure to ask them which one is which when they put them on the Christmas tree in 345 days!

Our 5th grade Language Arts students were also prepped on how to apply for a job this past quarter! They spent a lot of time reviewing how to write a persuasive letter, preparing a graphic organizer, writing a rough draft, peer reviewing the rough draft and writing a final draft, all so that they could ap-

ply for a job as Santa's elf! There were some wonderful letters and Santa was so pleased he decided to hire them all! I look forward to working with your student in the New Year and can't wait to start our biography projects and poetry section in February and March! Here we go!



6th Science Mrs. Secoy

6th grade science is studying the periodic table, now. They've been enjoying exploratory labs to learn about protons, neutrons, and electrons. Soon we'll start looking at how atoms bond to form molecules!

We are continuing to study watersheds and our nature trail, despite the challenging weather this time of year. Each week a student presents the forecast and we discuss if, or when, we should spend time outside. The students love going out to do water quality testing and have become excellent observational scientists!



7th Life Science Mrs. Secoy

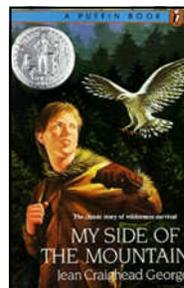
In science, 7th grade has been learning more about cells and DNA. They loved extracting DNA from strawberries, and were excited to learn about how genetics works. We are continuing to explore what happens to a population's genetics over time as we create our own species of "paper pets!" We are also starting to look at how energy moves through ecosystems as we explore food chains and energy pyramids.



We're really busy this time of year! 7th grade is really enjoying reading The Outsider's and 6th grade is reading My Side of the Mountain as we study the elements of fiction. Everyone is applying their understanding to their own written fictional stories, and the results are amazing!

6th & 7th Grade Language Arts - Mrs. Secoy

Students are sharing parts of their writing in our virtual classroom on Edmodo, and the feedback they give each other is great!



We've finished up reading and writing poetry, now. Looking for figurative language in popular music always appears to be a favor-

ite part of this unit, and a few students even wrote their own songs! 6th grade used figurative language to define an emotion, and 7th grade got really creative using figurative language in their writing.

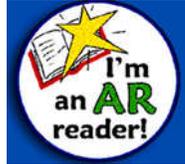
Next month will mark the end of our fiction study, as we move into research. For 7th grade, that means getting ready for debates!!

First Grade—Mrs. Whitson



First Grade is all about learning to become a proficient READER. For that reason, the children have been working really, really hard to meet that goal before the end of the year. One way of developing that ability is through multiple readings of a book. Of course we know, the more a child reads a book, the better they become at reading. To help accomplish that objective, the children choose books on their reading level to read nightly for homework with their

parent or family member. Such support is vital in helping a first grader learn to use the **reading strategies** more proficiently. With skillful, guided support from adults, it doesn't take long to become an 'expert' of their books.



With reading being a main focus of first grade, we will be using the **Accelerated Reader** program more frequently during the remaining two

nine weeks of school. With dedication and hard work, there shouldn't be a problem with any student not making their goal of earning 20 points by the end of the year to go on that fabulous AR trip! I'm hoping that many students will surpass that goal.

Please remember that one of the most important things YOU can do to help your child become a strong reader is to read, read, read to and with your child everyday.



- * *No Parking in Handicap Spaces*
- * *On 2-hour delay please try to have your child here by 10:00 am.*
- * *Due to changes in temperature, please send students to school dressed in layers.*

Counselor's Corner—Ms. Clarry

Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

~Catherine M. Wallace~

www.SpirituallyThinking.blogspot.com

Does your child feel heard?

We are busy people. While trying to meet the demands of everyday life, sometimes it's easy to overlook the stories of a child. Being present with your children in the formative years is crucial to having them talk with you when the issues become more serious. When a person feels heard, he feels important, like he matters. Your child has a lot to sort out. S/he needs and desires your loving ear to listen, even when s/he doesn't act like it. These seemingly trivial conversations are the vehicles for teaching children to problem-solve and make decisions on their own.

Ask for their opinion. Ask for more detail. Avoid trying to solve their problems for them; instead, ask for their thoughts on how to solve them. Look at them. Don't interrupt. Mirror the emotions on their face. Give them one-on-one time. Thank them for sharing with you, even if what they said isn't what you wanted to hear.

After-School Conversation Starters →

← Tips for listening in a way that your child feels heard.

1. **Best and worst:** What was the best part of your day? What was the worst?
2. **Tell me something that made you laugh today.**
3. **What is the coolest place at school?**
4. **If you got to choose, who would you want to sit next to in your class? Why?**
5. **Tell me a weird word you heard today.**
6. **How did you help someone today?**
7. **How did someone help you today?**
8. **When were you happiest today?**
9. **When were you bored today?**
10. **Tell me about one thing you learned today.**
11. **What do you think you should do more or learn more about at school?**
12. **Who do you like to play with at recess? What do you play?**
13. **If an alien spaceship visited your class and beamed someone up, who would you want the aliens to take?**
14. **Who is the funniest person in your class? What makes him/her so funny?**
15. **What word did your teacher say the most today?**
16. **Who in your class do you think you could be a little nicer to?**
17. **If your day at school was a movie, what movie would it be?**
18. **If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?**

Title I Reading - Mrs. Stout

It's exciting that we are on our way to longer days now that the winter solstice has passed! We are moving right along in Title I. Our students have been working very hard, especially with vocabulary and comprehension in the upper grades. Unless there's a specific skill that requires the use of fiction, we have been sticking to nonfiction in order to support what the students have been learning in science or social studies. Mid-year assessments have also been underway to review growth and provide guidance for our planning. I am pleased with the data so far as our students are moving forward! With January already more than half-way over, some of you may be thinking about a younger child in the family that is beginning to start school next year. Here are some tips to get you started!

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD BE READY TO READ AND READY TO LEARN?

□ Talk to your infant and toddler to help him/her learn to speak and understand the meaning of words. Point to objects that are near and describe them as you play and do



Coins for a Cure

Begin saving your quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies for the Coins for a Cure fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This fundraiser will begin soon. More information will be coming home. Start saving today!!!!

daily activities together. Having a large vocabulary gives a child a great start when he/she enters school.

□ Read to your baby every day starting at six months of age. Reading and playing with books is a wonderful way to spend special time with him/her.

Hearing words over and over helps him/her become familiar with them. Reading to your baby is one of the best ways to help him/her learn.

□ Use sounds, songs, gestures and words that rhyme to help your baby learn about language and its many uses. Babies need to hear language from a human being. Television is just noise to a baby.

□ Point out the printed words in your home and other places you take your child such as the grocery store. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him/her.

□ Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him/her while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.

□ Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.

□ Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.

□ Limit the amount and type of television you and your child watch. Better yet, turn off the television and spend more time cuddling and reading books with your child. The time and attention you give your child has many benefits beyond helping him be ready for success in school.

□ Reach out to libraries and community and faith-based organizations. These organizations can:

□ Help you find age-appropriate books to use at home with your child;

□ Show you creative ways to use books with your child and other tips to help her learn; and

□ Provide year-round children's reading and educational activities.

Information from: <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/readingtips.pdf>

As always, my door is open to anyone who may need support or ideas for home! Please don't hesitate to contact me or check out my website for great ideas!

Mrs. Stout
leannf@bath.k12.va.us
<http://www.bath.k12.va.us/mes/leanns/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Social Studies - Mr. Crawford

Fifth

The forecast is in and this year shows no sign of slowing down! Despite how fast the year is going, fifth grade is getting a lot done! I think (or at least hope) things have gotten more interesting for everyone. We've moved out of exploration and into colonization and finished up the Revolutionary War with an awesome project using Ozobots! We've been learning about the Constitution

and first five presidents, too.

Please don't forget to visit my webpage at www.mistercrawford.com. Be sure to click the US History I tab to see what's happening in fifth grade.

Sixth

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). They learned

about the "Captains of Industry" who helped shape this nation as well as the Spanish-American War and World War I. Wow! I didn't realize how much we'd covered since my last newsletter. Now we're learning about the "Roaring 20s" and heading into the Great Depression. We're on a roll and the time shows no signs of stopping!

Seventh

Seventh graders in Civics and Economics have really

Music Notes - Mrs. Lindsay

Happy New Year! I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your support of the Winter Music Program at Millboro Elementary. It was so wonderful for our students to look out and see so many faces at our Winter Program. It means a lot to me that you take the time to support the students in their performances.

Our students are again busy in their studies. Music classes will be quite busy as well.

All of our students will be working on Patriotic Music. Each class will focus on mastering one patriotic song. Time will be spent understanding the meaning of the song in addition to being able to sing it. Each class will also continue working on age appropriate musical signs and symbols. Kindergarten students will be learning terms such as vocal, instrumental, and

introduction. They will also continue to work on fast and slow, loud and soft, and long and short. Students will also work on keeping the beat of music using movement and rhythm instruments. First Grade students will be working on understanding of musical terms such as accompanied and unaccompanied. Students will continue working to understand about musical beat, rhythm and melody. Second graders will be working on learning how to follow the words of songs as well as recognizing and understanding about the music staff, treble clef, double bar line and repeat sign. Musical words such as *piano* and *forte* will also be explored. Third grade students will be learning about the Woodwind Family in the orchestra. The fourth graders will continue preparing to play the recorders. Their

focus will be on learning about the time signature and recognizing different kinds of notes and their values. Fifth graders are exploring the music of the Twentieth Century. Students will be looking at each decade during the 1900s and talking about the musical styles that were popular, what economic factors influenced the music of the decade, as well as the listening devices that were used. Sixth graders are exploring the history of music. Students will look at each period of music and talk about musical styles, composers, instruments and other things that impacted the music of the day. Seventh grade students will begin playing guitars next week!

Social Studies (continued)



impressed me lately! I love their interest in our laws and how government works. If some of that enthusiasm could be shared with all the content they have to know, we'd be golden! After learning about the three branches, we moved right along into how those branches share power and how checks and balances work. We learned how laws are made and talked about that crazy

Electoral College, which was perfect for the election season! They've learned about state and local government, too. I think they will enjoy their project on Bath County's government that's coming up. We're moving right along and we'll be on our trip to VA Beach before we know it! Until next time...



MATH ROCKS

7th Grade Math
Mr. Crawford



BRINGING
IXL HOME

We're happy to announce that we will use IXL to help reinforce our classroom curriculum this year. IXL is an online learning site that provides unlimited practice in over 6,000 topics. We've created a personal account for your child—sign in and explore!

Please type in the following:
www.ixl.com/signin/bathcps

Username and password will be your child's lunch number

These guys and dolls amaze me with their math skills! We've covered content including probability, volume and surface area, some geometry, and one of their favs...the fundamental counting principle. We even figured out how many possibilities there are for Xbox Live codes using this principle. Turns out it's in the septillions. What's that? Well, it looks something like this, 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Yeah, I wished them luck guessing one of the codes!

Until next time...



Nutty Pears



Slice a pear into wedges. Spread 1 tsp. peanut butter on the bottom half of each wedge and dip into granola and dried fruit.

Band - Mrs. Hooker

The Millboro Bands have had a terrific 2nd quarter! On Dec. 15th, they performed beautifully in our Winter Band Concert! They have already started working on new music for the spring and will be adding more scales and new notes to their repertoire! On Jan. 27th and 28th, several students will be participating in All Area Band at Covington High School. These students auditioned in November and were accepted to represent

MES at the All Area event. The following students will be participating in the event: Sarah Eaton, Kaitlyn Hall, Kimmy Graham, Kayla Elledge and Hannah Heffler. Everyone is invited to the concert at 4pm on Jan. 28th at CHS.

MUSIC MATTERS!



Edible Play-doh

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups warm water
- 1 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- Food coloring



Directions:

Mix all of the ingredients together, and stir over low heat. Allow dough to thicken until it looks like mashed potatoes. When the dough pulls away from the sides of the pot and clumps in the center, remove the pan from heat and allow the dough to cool enough to handle. If the dough feels too sticky, just cook it a little longer.