

# Wildcat MEWS

## Preschool Mews

Preschool has been looking forward to the arrival of spring. However, starting spring with snow has been a bit confusing! We are looking forward to warmer weather and being able to see the signs of spring like leaves 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! So far, about half of our class has had the opportunity to lead the school in these morning pledges. The rest of the class will have their chance in the upcoming days. We are so proud of them!

We have completed our theme of "Clothing." We learned a lot about clothing. When asked what they had learned, some of the children's answers were: "They sew. They go up and down. My brother got sewed. He got stitched," "I fold them, and I help my Mom," and "We get clothes out of stores sometimes. I get my clothes all by myself at home."



We are beginning to learn about "Trash" including "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," which ties in nicely with our next theme of "Trees." We are planning a field trip to enhance our learning on these subjects. Some of the children already have some knowledge of trash such as: "You put trash into trash bags," "Dump trash in the dump trash truck," and "Yucky!"

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



## From the Principal's Desk

Greetings! Spring has finally arrived! Let's hope it stays with us a while! 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, 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.

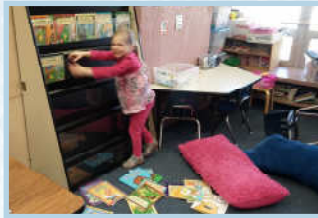
## KINDERGARTEN MEWS - Mrs. Armstrong

The month of March has 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 its shape. They are working on locating 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. They also made a Virginia state flag. We discussed symbols of 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 day on

Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We decided to study St. Patrick's Day a little earlier since it fell on the weekend. The students entered the room that morning to find many things out of place such as chairs turned over, trays moved and calendar items moved around. They were so excited to also find lots of candy and gold coins on the floor. They were even more excited to find out that the gold coins were really chocolate candy. The students enjoyed the treats during the day. I did let them know at the end of the day that leprechauns were not real and it had actually been Ms. Julie messing up our room and leaving the candy. It gave us a chance to talk about other countries on the map and ways to travel over the ocean. It was a fun day!

## FIRST GRADE MEWS - Ms. Smolarek

First grade has welcomed spring, excited about the nicer weather! We have had a wonderful and adventurous 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The students have been busy reading so many books. In the month of March we read over 140 books just in class! This quarter, we were initiated as pirates of Millboro Elementary! We have had so much fun learning about nouns, adjectives, and verbs; we love to sing our verb rap any chance we can get. We have grown so much and going to do our personal best to finish off the year! Fourth quarter is



going to bring lots of experiments, learning about plant life, and master counting coins!



### DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL:

- 1-3 Easter/Spring Break
- 4 School Reopens  
Report Cards Go Home  
School Board Meeting at MES; 7 pm
- 5 Spring Pictures  
4th Gr. Band Recruitment Parent Meeting at BCHS; 6 pm
- 10 Board of Supervisor's Meeting 7 pm
- 11 Anti-Bullying Assembly Gr. 4-7;  
8:45 am
- 13 No Preschool
- 17-20 Book Fair
- 20 4-H Visits Gr. 4
- 23 PK Trip to Douthat State Park  
9:30 am—2:30 pm
- 25 Progress Reports Go Home  
Gr. 2 to Frontier Culture Museum  
8:45 am—2:30 pm
- 26 Gr. 4/5 to Jamestown;  
5:30 am—10 pm
- 27 Early Release 12:30 pm
- 28 St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon 9:15 am-11 am
- 29 SNOWDATE: St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon  
2-4:30 pm
- 30 Gr. K, 1, 3 to Virginia Safari Park  
8:45 am-3 pm

### DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY:

- 1 School Board Meeting at VES; 7 pm
- 2 Gr. 7 Promotion Pictures
- 3 Family Reading Night 6 pm
- 8 Board of Supervisor's Meeting 7 pm
- 13 Mother's Day
- 18 No Preschool  
4-H Visits Gr. 4
- 19 Armed Forces Day
- 20 Spring Art Show; 4-6 pm  
Spring Band Concert; 6 pm
- 23-24 Gr. 7 to Williamsburg/VA Beach  
6 am, Wednesday to 10 pm, Thursday
- 26 Elementary Band to Kings Dominion  
6 am—11:30 pm
- 28 Memorial Day; No School
- 29 Elementary Band to BCHS ; 1:30 pm
- 30 Preschool Ice Cream Social 2:30 pm
- 31 7th Gr. Promotion; 6 pm

### DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE:

- 1 Last Pupil Day; Awards Ceremony  
8:45 am; Classbook Signing 9:45 am;  
Early Release 12:30 pm
- 8 Report Cards Ready to be Picked Up

## SECOND GRADE MEWS

### Mrs. Madison

The weather has been crazy during this 9 weeks. We have been working hard to keep the regular routine each day and cover as much information as the time allows!



We enjoyed the Children's Art Network programs on Ancient Egypt and Ancient China.

Thanks to the parents who were able to assist on these days.



Our Reading challenge went well. We worked together with the other 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class to create a large snowman in the hall with plenty of snow around him to show the books we read this 9 weeks.

Day 100 was fun when it finally got here! We also enjoyed our trip to the high school to the opera. Science activities with solids, liquids, and gases kept us busy. We made kachina dolls for the Southwest Indian study and they were beautiful.

We wrote uplifting thoughts on a heart for each of our classmates and taped them on our desks in Feb. In March, we wrote good luck wishes on shamrocks for the class and posted them outside our door.

The last nine weeks we will be busy learning new information as well as review of previous skills. Homework continues to be an important part of moving our learning along in reading and spelling.

## SECOND GRADE MEWS - Mrs. Hepler



Patriotism fills the air in Second Grade A. We learned about many Famous Americans

such as George Washington, Helen Keller, Martin Luther King Jr., Abe Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony and many more. We did many Reader's Theaters, poems, and a puppet show. You can see many tweets on these. Students learned how to make a Powerpoint on the computer with conversation bubbles with their Famous American. The Students learned how to operate the iPad and worked on Chatterpics. They researched their image and learned how to make their image talk with their voice.

Students learned to research facts, find the main idea and sequence the events with a Famous American.

Students built many patriotic sym-



bols and landmarks out of Legos such as the White House, Lincoln Memorial, American flags, the Bald



Eagle, the Washington Monuments and the Liberty Bell. Did you know there is talk that they may make the buffalo a Patriotic symbol too?

Students are learning measurement in Math. We had Olympic Games where students shot putted, did the Javelin, broad jump, and did the



disk throw. We measured all our distances. Here are our Gold medalist!

Students exceeded our goal of reading 200 books by the month of March and our classes read a grand total of 257 books.

Way to Go Second Grade!

In Science we learned about Matter and we are moving on to Weather. Have your child watch the weather on TV. Let them be meteorologist and predict the weather by the clouds. Have them read your thermometer at home. This will help them learn about the world around them and also weather. We are all looking forward to pretty weather ahead!



## THIRD GRADE MEWS Mrs. Sizemore

In third grade this very snowy nine weeks, we have been focusing on non-fiction reading. We read all about the Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Alaska. We did research on mushers in the race, and we are even taking part in our class "Iditaread." We also read about famous Americans like Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, and Cesar Chavez.

In math, students continue to master their multiplication and division facts. We have learned how to find elapsed time and are plugging away at geometry. Third graders are practicing skills to show off our learning at the end of the year by working lots of practice problems on IXL. The Testing Trolls will not be able to trick us!

In Social Studies this nine weeks we have explored the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Mali. We learned about the land and people and found out about all the contributions these civilizations have made to our world that we still use today.

We also had the opportunity to make some fantastic art projects while learning more about the ancient civilizations through the Children's Art Network. Thanks again to all of the wonderful parent volunteers who helped out with this!

## FOURTH GRADE MEWS - Ms. Manion

Fourth grade wrestled with fractions for the time we had here at school. We worked on understanding as denominators get larger the actual size of the piece of the whole gets smaller. We worked on simplifying fractions and finding equivalent fractions. We worked on adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators. We are still working on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators as well as comparing and ordering fractions. We also tried to work on decimals but we will be covering decimals the fourth nine weeks. In addition, we will be working on geometry, measurement, and equations.

We worked on cause and effect and context clues during the third nine weeks. We started working on sensory words and author's purpose. We will focus on main idea and supporting details with a review of all comprehension skills during the fourth nine weeks. As always, students need to be reading at home.

In Virginia Studies, we studied the American Revolution, created the United States government, learned a bit about life in the young United States, and finally made it through the Civil War. We will cover 1865 until present day and review it all before our SOL test in the upcoming weeks. Students had the opportunity to review Jamestown with an outreach program from Jamestown settlement. The students really enjoyed it.

In science, we worked on understanding the basic laws of physics, did some more with electricity and magnetism, and studied ecosystems. Students had the opportunity for an "Animals in Their Habitats" program with the Children's Art Network sponsored by the Bath Arts Association. They had fun drawing the animals in their habitats. We will be covering more of the solar system and plants during the final nine weeks. There will also be a review of Virginia's resources.



## 5/6 GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS/ 6/7 SCIENCE MEWS - Mrs. Secoy

### 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts



We've been very busy this quarter! 7<sup>th</sup> grade read The Outsider's and 6<sup>th</sup> grade really enjoyed reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry as we studied the elements of fiction. Right now we are exploring poetry, and we're using music to focus on figurative language!

Students have enjoyed listening to songs like "Blown Away" by Carrie Underwood, "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay, "Compass" by Lady Antebellum, and "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars.

Everyone has also studied the life and poems of 3 different poets, and we're gearing up to start writing our own poetry! I can't wait to see what students write!

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Life Science

7<sup>th</sup> grade science has shifted into our study of biomes, ecosystems,

and relationships between organisms. We are using maps to study where different kinds of biomes are found and are exploring the animals and plants found in each biome. Soon we'll be looking at the relationships between different organisms, and we'll start talking about how plants behave. Looking at plant response to stimulus is always exciting!

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science



6<sup>th</sup> 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 be completing space projects over the next couple of weeks before we shift our focus to watersheds to really look at the data we've been collecting and decide what it means.

## FIFTH GRADE MEWS Ms. Bayne

Once again, we are finishing another quarter and wow did it go fast! In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science we learned about the five Kingdoms of living things and how the largest is the animal kingdom. The students loved learning about the two different types of animals, vertebrates and invertebrates. To extend our animal knowledge we will be researching an animal to learn about its adaptation and how it helps the animal to survive. We will also be learning about ocean geography and 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 will also learn 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 5/6 GRADE MATH MEWS - Ms. Lee

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math Challenge. Bring the completed problem in for a prize.

**Directions:** Using the Four Step Problem Solving Process (Read, Plan, Solve, Check), correctly solve the problem below. Along with your clearly identified solution, include a specific, detailed response explaining your problem solving process and strategy.



### Problem 1

#### Bowl of Cherries

In the middle of the night, my dad was hungry, so he came downstairs and ate  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the cherries my mother had put in a bowl. My brother then came down and ate  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the remaining cherries before he went back to bed. My sister came down and, you guessed it, she ate more cherries. In fact, she ate  $\frac{1}{6}$  of them. When I came down, I ate only  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the remaining cherries. By the time my mother came down the next morning, there were only 16 cherries remaining in the bowl. How many cherries were in the bowl to start?

Problem Solving Strategy Used:

- Act Out or Use Objects
- Make a Picture or Diagram
- Guess and Check
- Use or Make a Table
- Make an Organized List
- Work Backwards
- Use or Look for a Pattern
- Use Logical Reasoning
- Make It Simpler
- Brainstorm

### Problem 2

**Directions:** Using the Four Step Problem Solving Process (Read, Plan, Solve, Check), correctly solve the problem below. Along with your clearly identified solution, include a specific, detailed response explaining your problem solving process and strategy.

#### A Row of Triangles



With 1 triangle, the perimeter is 3 units. With a row of 2 connected triangles, the perimeter is 4 units. What is the perimeter of a row of 20 triangles? What is the perimeter of a row of 50 triangles? How could you find the perimeter of a row with any given number (n) of triangles?

## 5/6 GRADE MATH MEWS Continued...

Problem Solving Strategy Used:

- Act Out or Use Objects
- Make a Picture or Diagram
- Guess and Check
- Use or Make a Table
- Make an Organized List
- Work Backwards
- Use or Look for a Pattern
- Use Logical Reasoning
- Make It Simpler
- Brainstorm

## BAND NOTES Mrs. Hooker

The MES bands have been busy preparing for their spring concert! An Evening with the Arts will be held on Sunday, May 20th at Bath County HS. Art Show 4-6pm/Band Concert 6pm.

Band students are also invited to attend our end of the year band trip to Kings Dominion on Saturday, May 26th!

Be on the lookout for spring trip reminders and permission slips.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION MEWS—Ms. Forsyth

Only nine weeks remaining in the school year?! Time flies by so quickly and your children are growing up so very fast. The weather presented challenges with the two-hour delays and no school. Grades 4-7 Aerobic Fitness Assessment was completed right before spring break and the students PACER scores indicated that in the gym the majority of them have been working hard.

The final testing will be in May, and the students will run PACER and also do the mile. In Aerobic Fitness standards the students goal is to meet the HFZ (Healthy Fitness Zone) for the mile and/or PACER. Students often like one test more than the other, it is a matter of personal preference.

Upper grade students will work on aerobic endurance, upper body strength and core strength utilizing various activities and equipment in the gym. Grades 4-7 have Family Life Education for 3-4 days in the last nine weeks. Once a date is set papers will be sent home with the students for you to read, and materials will be available at the school for you to view.

In the lower grades we will continue to work on throwing and catching skills using various items. Kicking and hitting a stationary object and then a moving object. Lead up kickball activities, t-ball and coach pitch lead up games will be covered in the last nine weeks. The students will continue to work on gross motor skills, teamwork and cooperation.

I am looking forward to the final nine weeks and the year will conclude with a school wide Field Day for grades PS-7. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## 5th/6th/7th GRADE HISTORY &

## 7th GRADE MATH MEWS - 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 about to make historical action figures and will finish the year off with the Civil War. We're also heading to Jamestown soon!

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 (and even visited the Warm Springs Court House). 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!

### 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 ☺

## MUSIC MEWS - Mrs. Lindsay



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. 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 continue to work on following the words of a song. Understanding rhythm continues to be an important topic. 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. I am quite proud of them. Third grade is studying the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem!

Fourth graders are currently learning to play the Recorder. Students have learned three notes and will continue working with the recorder until 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. We have also talked about some of the great Jazz musicians of the 1920s and 1930s. During the last nine weeks, we will also talk about musicals.

We had several students participate in the "Celebration of the Arts" event that was held at BCHS on March 23. This was an event featuring middle school musicians from Alleghany, Bath and Covington. The band and choral students got to work with a guest conductor and then performed a concert on Friday evening. It was supposed to be a two day event but because of the weather, we condensed it into a one day event. Our students represented Millboro Elementary School well. I was very proud of them.





## TITLE I MEWS - Mrs. Stout

What happened to the third quarter!?! Despite the numerous days we've missed due to weather, you should still be very proud of your student(s) and their accomplishments! We are moving right along in Title I!

Kindergarten has focused on rhyming, matching words with the same beginning sounds, tracking words in books with me, and writing a one sentence summary on what they've read.

First grade through fifth grade have been working on making inferences, using context clues to identify the meaning of unknown words, multiple meaning words, homophones (words that sound the same but have different meanings), identifying the cause and effect, identifying the main idea and details, and so much more! This only begins to shed light on the many skills and strategies we have been conquering!

We recently celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America week. Thank you for all of your support in this! The kids looked great and had so much fun.

First grade students sport their pajamas as Mrs. Stout reads I Am Not Going to Get Up Today! By Dr. Seuss



Preschool students illustrate pictures of their bedroom to go along with the book.

