

Wildcat News

From the Principal's Desk - Mrs. Hicklin

Greetings from Millboro Elementary School! We have already started second semester— hard to believe!

Staff and students are getting back into their routines in the classrooms and great things are happening here! The 6th and 7th grade classes have already earned rewards in their quest for 10 days of perfect attendance – which is AWESOME! We have several classes that are very close to earning a reward. You can do it! We also had our 2nd nine weeks attendance celebration before our winter break. Students with perfect or excellent attendance were invited to a slime party. They got to listen to music, make slime and eat ice cream as a reward. It was a fantastic way

to celebrate their hard work and awesome attendance!

Just as a reminder: For your child to have a productive day at school, please make sure they are getting plenty of rest at night and eating a good breakfast in the morning. If your child eats breakfast at school, please try to get them here at 8:00 am 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 all know that 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 our 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 planned a roundtable event that had to be canceled due to the unexpected snow! Since it was so close to Christmas break, we were not able to reschedule the December meeting. We plan to pick back up on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:00 p.m. We hope at least one parent of each child will be able to 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. Preschool also worked very hard during that time on gifts for their parents. They even decorated the gift bags to put them in!

We have looked for a different letter around the school each week. It is interesting to see how many places we can find these letters. So far, we have searched for letters T, B, E, P, R, H, A, O and C. Help your child to see where they can find letters at home, on road signs, in the stores, etc. We also work on a number each

month. January's number is 6.

Since the break, we have been discussing "Simple Machines." These include things such as a wedge (for example, a knife is a type of wedge), lever (such as scissors or a see-saw), a pulley, wheel and axle, an inclined plane, and a screw. There is so much to learn in preschool!



Dates to remember in January:

PBIS Pajama/Stuffed Animal Day	11
Preschool Roundtable 6 pm	16
No Preschool	18
Pupil Holiday-NO SCHOOL	21
Gr. 7 to Richmond; 6:30 am-6:30 pm	29

Dates to remember in February:

PBIS Sports Jersey Day	
World Read Aloud to a Child Day	1
School Board Mtg; 7 pm at BCHS	5
No Preschool	8
Board of Supervisor's Mtg; 7 pm	12
Preschool Roundtable 6 pm	13
Valentine's Day	14
Pupil Holiday-NO SCHOOL	
Parent Conference Day 1-4 & 4:30-7 pm	21
Pupil Holiday; NO SCHOOL	22
Read Across America Week Feb 25-Mar 1	25
Family Reading Night 6 pm	28

Dates to remember in March:

School Board Mtg.; 7 pm at MES	5
SNOWDATE-Family Reading Night 6 pm	7
No Preschool	8
Daylight Savings Time; Spring Forward	10
Board of Supervisor's Mtg; 7 pm	12
Spring Pictures	
Preschool Roundtable 6 pm	13
St. Patrick's Day	17
PBIS No Mirror Day	18
First Day of Spring	20
End 3rd Marking Period Early Release 12:30 pm	21
No School	22
No School	25

Dates to remember in April:

Report Cards Go Home	1
School Board Meeting 7pm; VES	2
PBIS Flip Flop Day	5
Board of Supervisor's Mtg. 7 pm	9
Preschool Roundtable 6 pm	10
No Preschool	12

Kindergarten - Mrs. Armstrong

We made lots of ornaments to go on our classroom Christmas tree. The students had fun with this activity and did a wonderful job. They took the ornaments home to go on their tree and to save for years to come. We also did a



Christmas tree to help animals after the holiday season. They moved their tree outside and put nuts, popcorn, berries and other food around the tree to help feed the animals through the winter. We will make the feeders during the next week or so to help the animals near our homes.



about things we have studied. Remember to have your children tell you about

what they learned about Dr. King.

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.

math activity using gum balls for counting, graphing and doing math problems.



We will start this month talking about winter weather and winter animals. We will discuss what animals do in the winter to survive the cold winter months. We will read the story **The After Christmas Tree by Linda Wagner Tyler.** It's a wonderful story that tells what a family does with their

We will study Martin Luther King, Jr. during the week of January 21st and sing songs and read books about this famous American. I am always impressed at how much the students remember

Cafeteria Corner

MySchoolBucks.com is a wonderful tool to watch a student's money account. Sign up is FREE. Getting updates on account balances is very helpful as well as watching exactly what your child is buying in the cafeteria. You can pay on the account on line through myschoolbucks.com or just check the current balance and pay at school.

We have been experimenting Second Chance breakfast with 5th, 6th and 7th grade. It is exactly what it says, a second chance for those students to get breakfast. The goal is to insure that every student eats breakfast every day. I have asked all students to share info at home about whether or not the 2nd chance is for them or is the current 1st round better. The prices are the same as is the reimbursable meal requirements. Drop me an email or give me a call with any questions you have concerning your students money and/or breakfast/lunch practices

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR KEEPING YOUR KIDS MEAL ACCOUNT BALANCE IN THE POSITIVE! OUR SCHOOL ROCKS AT THIS!!

Stacy Schumacher
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First Grade - Ms. Smolarek

First Grade finished up 2018 full of fun learning activities. We talked about holiday traditions in our family, and other traditions around the world. We had so much fun researching reindeer, building gingerbread houses, and making snowmen indoors! Our class elf, Peppermint, kept a close watch to make sure we ended 2018 on task and learning lots. We unlocked 2019 by reviewing our addition, even and odd, vowel sounds, place value, and creating per-

sonal and class goals for the year. We cannot wait to dive deeper into adding and subtracting, being excellent and strong readers, and researching and teaching all about arctic animals!



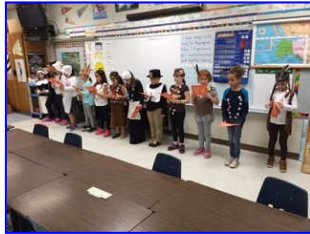
Second Grade - Mrs. Madison



Happy New Year!! The 2nd 9 weeks has been full of holiday celebrations. We enjoyed the costume

parade for Halloween. The "After Thanksgiving" Thanksgiving Feast was delicious and our program went well. Thank you parents for helping with costumes and providing the yummy food. We welcomed a new classmate at the end of November. All 19 students were here for the

Christmas program which was fantastic. In Science we spent time on the life cycle of a plant. Soc. Studies time was spent on the Woodland Indians and holidays. Telling time and counting money were a few of the skills we worked on in math.



We have read many books in our reading groups – fiction and non-

fiction. We were excited when Mr. Hall brought our computer cart to the room with our new laptops!



The 3rd 9 weeks will be busy. Lots of reading, writing, and math skills will be covered. We will begin to work on learning how to write the alphabet correctly in cursive and then letter combinations to make words. We will be learning about famous Americans each month. The list just goes on and on!!!

Second Grade/Kindergarten Math—Mrs. Hepler

Mrs. Hepler's 2nd grade Reading groups enjoyed doing holiday activities. In reading students sequenced their stories with a Christmas frame using the transition words, first, then, next, after that, and finally. They enjoyed holiday poems, working with Santa's reindeer and putting them in alphabetical order and other Christmas words. They enjoyed sorting long and pattern words with sleighs. Students did an opinion writing piece on Elf on the Shelf. All children stated how much fun it was seeing their elf, how it made Christmas magical, how they enjoyed finding him and the different places he would be. Students enjoyed making a Christmas tree with their handprints and long e words. Students are currently working on adjectives. We used many to describe holiday objects like ornaments, stockings, Santa, elves and many more. We will continue to work with adjectives, plurals, and writing sentences the Third nine weeks. We will begin working with plurals and continue on our word study with long vowels. Look for our long o snowman coming in the near future!

Mrs. Helper's K Math group

Things were bopping in Kindergarten math. We made Patterns with Christmas chains and did numerous activities with patterns; we then measured to see who had the longer chain, the shorter chain. We used prepositional words as we placed our Christmas mouse in, out, beside, between, on, off, beneath the box. Those who got them all right got to play the music of our mouse. Thank you for the gumdrops. We sorted them by color, we graphed them, we made patterns with them, we measured with them, we added and subtracted with them, we compared groups of different colors and the best part of all, we ate them. These nine weeks we will continue to review all that was taught and we will work on recognizing money, the clock and adding and subtracting. We will start to work on simple word problems and show the students how to go about finding their answer with manipulatives or drawing their objects. If you have any marshmallows, cotton balls please bring them in to class for other activities.

In Science we will talk about the weather and States of Matter. Have your child describe the weather we are having daily and notice the different temperatures, change of nature, and how we must dress differently.

How To Make Crystal Geode Eggs

Geodes are small rock cavities lined with crystals or minerals. They form through sedimentation, a process in which particles are suspended in fluid and accumulate. The salt particles fuse together because the water is so saturated, forming crystals as the water evaporates.

What You'll Need:

- Eggs
- Egg dye (optional)
- Craft glue
- Epsom salt
- Food coloring
- Toothpicks



1. Help kids crack an egg at the narrow end and carefully widen the opening to the size of a quarter. Empty into a bowl; repeat with more eggs. (Save the eggs and make a scramble or frittata)
2. Set shells in a bowl of hot water to rinse. Then show kids how to gently rub their thumb on the inside to loosen and remove the membrane. Turn the shells over on a towel to dry. If desired, dye them before the next step; let dry.
3. Set the shells inside the carton. Brush the entire inside with a thin layer of glue and dust with Epsom salt (this will act as a starter crystal). Let dry completely (a few hours).
4. Boil 1 cup water and remove from heat (an adult's job). Slowly add 1/2 cup Epsom salt and stir until it's dissolved. Continue stirring in small amounts of salt (a tablespoon or two at a time but no more than 1/2 cup) until it no longer dissolves, then STOP. You've made a super-saturated solution! It should be thick but not slushy.
5. Carefully pour the solution into your shells with a small ladle, filling to the top. Add a drop of food coloring to each egg, and stir gently with a toothpick. Place your shells somewhere safe and at room temperature.
6. Check your eggs daily. If you find a thin, hard, jagged layer forming on the surface, gently break it up with a toothpick (allowing the water to evaporate). After a few days, all the water will evaporate, leaving colorful geodes behind!



6th Science Mrs. Secoy

6th grade science has completed our study of weather, though we'll continue to present a weekly forecast. Now we are studying the periodic table. They'll be working through exploratory labs to learn about protons, neutrons, and electrons. Then 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!

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

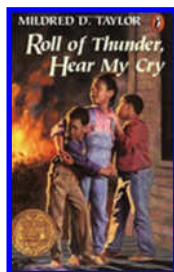


We're really busy this time of year! 7th grade is getting ready to read The Outsider's and 6th

grade will be reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry as we study the elements of fiction. Everyone will apply their understanding to their own written fictional stories, and I can't wait to see the results!

As a combined class, students will be reading

biographies with partners. They'll also be developing their research skills as they work together to learn more about the people from their biographies. I can't wait to see their communication skills in action!



7th Life Science Mrs. Secoy

In science, 7th grade has been learning more about cells and DNA. They were excited to learn about how genetics works, and are excited about extracting DNA from strawberries. 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.



Fourth Grade - Ms. Manion

Fourth grade spent the second nine weeks working on multiplication and division. We also started working on basic geometric shapes. We continued working on learning how to figure elapsed time and figuring out patterns and extending them. We will continue to work on division while reviewing multiplication in the weeks ahead. We will spend most of the third nine weeks on fractions.

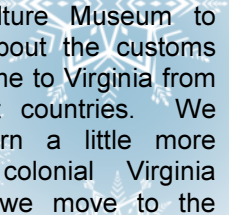
In reading, fourth grade worked on supporting the main idea with supporting details. In addition, we are working on

looking in the text for the evidence that supports an answer or opinion. We are working on cause and effect as well as looking for ways an author uses the setting, characters, or language to move the story forward. We will continue to work on these comprehension skills as we continue to read. We wrote stories during the second nine weeks. We will need to start working on writing nonfiction during the third nine weeks.

In science, they continue to study electricity in 4-H. We worked on the skill of classification and the steps to conducting a

science experiment. They worked on learning the scientific method by building paper rockets. Then we moved on to study animals – the different kinds and their characteristics. We need to study how humans affect ecosystems and how energy flows through an ecosystem. Then we need to move on to weather and the solar system.

In Virginia studies, we settled Jamestown and survived all the problems they had starting the colony of Virginia. We have also studied colonial Virginia. We went on a field trip to the American Fron-



tier Culture Museum to learn about the customs that came to Virginia from different countries. We will learn a little more about colonial Virginia before we move to the American Revolution and the creation of the United States. We continue to receive support on learning through primary sources by having a monthly program from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. We are thankful to the Bath County Historical Society for funding the programs again this year.

Third Grade - Mrs. Sizemore

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the year already! In third grade, we have been reading up a storm. We have learned about main idea and supporting details, comparing and contrasting, and building vocabulary and fluency. During December, we read about holidays around the world and the Rockefeller Christmas tree. We also enjoyed twelve days of holiday reading with guest readers coming in each day to read their favorite holiday books with us.

In math, students are training hard to become multiplication and division ninjas as they continue to practice their facts to earn their belts. Keep up the great work! We have also learned about continuing patterns and solved “in and out boxes”. We delve into elapsed time and fractions in the upcoming nine weeks. My class continues to practice math skills on IXL and has worked over 25,000 math questions this year. This is great practice for when they get to show off their learning at the end of the year.

In Social Studies, we have traveled the globe learning about ancient civilizations. We studied Ancient Rome and Greece and learned all about the government, architecture, and art of their time. Students found that many of the contributions of those ancient people are still in use in our daily lives today, like our representative form of government and architectural design elements like columns and arches.

We have been having a great time in third and I know we are going to have as much fun in the second half of the year as we have had in the first half.



- * *No Parking in Handicap Spaces*
- * *On 2-hour delay please try to have your child here by 10:00 am. They are not counted tardy until 10:25, but we try to start instruction as soon as possible.*
- * *Due to changes in temperature, please send students to school dressed in layers.*

Title I Reading - Mrs. Stout

Hello everyone! I trust that you had a restful break! We have been working hard in Title I and plan on continuing that momentum when we get back. The key to your child's success is time in text. What does that mean? They need to read, read, read AT HOME. If you have a child that is in kindergarten or that is an emergent reader, have them find letters and give the sound it makes or locate sight words throughout the book as you read. Remember, your child has a Raz-Kids login and password for online books. If you need more books at home, all you have to do is ask! I can send home books and

we have our free mini library in the cafeteria so that students can grab a book (or two or three) whenever it is needed. If you would like more activities to do with your child at home to boost their reading level, please let me know and I can get these together for you! My email, phone line, and door are always open to you for any help you may need to support your child.

Please add the following to your calendars. February 1st is World Read Aloud to a Child Day. Also, February 25 through March 1st is Read Across America Week. More information will be coming home on the events

scheduled for these dates.

Happy reading!
Mrs. Stout
leanns@bath.k12.va.us

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 headed into the Revolutionary War. Be sure to ask your child about the awesome Revolution project using Ozobots!

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. We've been studying 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 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. We even had visitors from our state and local governments come in

and speak, including Millboro Supervisor Eddy Hicklin and VA Senator Creigh Deeds. We're moving right along and we'll be on our trip to VA Beach before we know it! Until next time...



Math

These guys and girls are on a roll in math, too! We've covered content including probability, volume and surface area, and some geometry! Speaking of geometry, where do geometry teachers go to work for the government? The pentagon



Until next time...



Music Notes - Mrs. Lindsay



All of our students will be working on Patriotic Music. Each class will focus on master-

ing 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 are playing guitars. We are having a lot of fun. Students have



learned to play Smoke on the Water, Happy Birthday, and Old Joe Clark. In the next few weeks, students will continue to learn some fun songs. Students will also learn how to play a few chords on the guitar as well.



Band Notes—Mrs. Hooker

The MES bands had a great semester and showed off their amazing talents at the Winter Band Concert on Dec 19th. The fifth grade performed selections out of their method book as well as Jingle Bells. The sixth grade band performed Along Came a Spider and First Holiday Concert. The seventh grade band performed Defender of Time and God Rest Ye Merry Peeps and also had a great time performing a piece with the high school band. Each group performed beautifully!

Several students auditioned for All Area Band in November. The following students were accepted into the 2019 All Area Band: Sadie Alphin, Chloe Grimm, Neveah Knick, Natalie White, Kelsey Eaton, Catherine Smiley, Dillon Miller, and Nick Bryant. These students will be representing Millboro Elementary School at the All Area Event on Jan 25 & 26 at Rockbridge County HS. There will be a concert on Saturday, Jan. 26th at 4PM. Please join us!

We look forward to exciting new pieces, scales, counting systems, and notes this semester!



