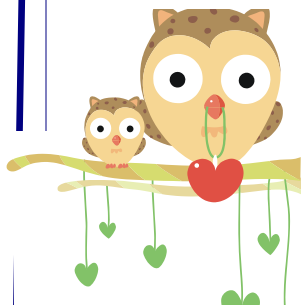




Whatever it takes, our children are worth it!

Volume 4

February 2015



Pungoteague Elementary School Paw Tracks

Principal's Message...
Ms. Wandnetta McCray



We have just finished our first semester of school! We are completing our midyear benchmark assessments in Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science. This is the time of year when students are expected to retain taught skills and concepts. They need to apply what they have learned to new material. Teachers are re-viewing skills and concepts from the first semester and teaching new information for the second semester.

We are assessing our students' readiness and academic progress regarding the expectations and requirements for promotion to the next grade level. If your child is struggling in any content area, there is still time to help him/her recover skills and be prepared for the next grade level. Be sure to check your child's report card for information regarding their academic progress. Retention letters will be located in your child's report card if he/ she will be considered as a candidate for retention in the current grade. Report cards are issued home on February 5, 2015. If you find that your child needs additional help, you will need to contact your child's teacher at (757) 787- 4032 to learn ways to help your child at home.

Attendance is also an issue for some of our students. If a student is not in school, they may struggle or have difficulty due to time missed in the instructional setting. We need your child here at school to receive the full benefit of the instructional day. I encourage you to schedule doctor's appointments before or after school hours. Please make sure that your child is reading at home each night, completing homework assignments, and submitting class work on time. As we start the second semester of school, our students need to continue to be prepared and maintain a positive attitude about their learning and success.

I sincerely thank all stakeholders (teachers, staff, parents, community members) for your continued support and efforts in providing the best education possible for our students!

Ms. Wandnetta McCray
Principal

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Library News

Read with your child each night.
Encourage them to take Accelerated Reader Tests.

Bobcat News

February 5

Report Cards
Issued

February 6

Bobcat Nine Weeks
Awards
Grades 3-5:
@1:00 PM
Grades PreK-2:
@2:00 PM

February 13

Last day for
Joe Corbi orders

February 19

@6:00 PM
Grade 4 Program
Title I STEM Night

February 16

School Closed
President's Day

February 27

Eat Lunch with
your child

PTA IS STILL COLLECTING BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION. THEY ARE FOUND ON MANY PRODUCTS AND EACH ONE IS WORTH A DIME FOR OUR SCHOOL. PLEASE SAVE THEM AND HAVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY HELP COLLECT THEM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. **THANK YOU!!!**

Kind Kindergarten Miss Gummo

We can't believe the school year is already half way over! Time is really flying by. We are hard at work in Reading, mastering our remaining letters and sounds and working on building and reading words. In the next few weeks of Math, we will be working with money up to ten cents and adding numbers to ten as well.

Please remember to dress your child for the weather as we try to get outside as much as possible. Keep signing your child's folders nightly along with any homework your child may have. PLEASE READ WITH THEM AS WELL. Also, it may seem like a long way off, but we will begin to discuss and prepare for our Kindergarten graduation. Keep a watch in your child's folders as beginning information will be coming home within the next few weeks!

Fabulous First Grade Miss Perkins

February is going to be one sweet month. In first grade we will be focusing on geometry and patterns, and continuing with addition and subtraction. Our reading is really taking off and we will continue to focus on reading for meaning, fluency and comprehension. First grade will Benchmark test in Reading and Math on February 10th and 11th. This will give us a good idea of where we stand on skills already taught. Please remember to read with your child every night and fill in the Pizza Hut Book It form. We will also use this form for the Shorebirds tickets! Thank you for all that you do.

Super Second Grade Miss Williams

We hope that you have been enjoying our winter weather so far. We're going to be doing our second round of benchmark testing this month. It is very important that your child gets plenty of rest the night before their test as well as eats a good breakfast. Your child needs to make sure to take all materials home to study to do their very best.

After benchmark testing, we will be working on new material for the other subjects. For Math, we will learn about subtraction with and without regrouping, geometry, and money. The Second Grade team will be reviewing past skills to strengthen the students' understanding so the information from the last nine weeks is still fresh in their minds.

Remember to always read, read, read, READ! Your student should spend at least 15 minutes reading a good story and telling you what they read. For the AR program, we require students to take and pass a minimum of 2 tests.

The Second Grade team insists that all students dress properly for the winter weather. They need to have a warm coat, a hat, and a pair of gloves.

Terrific Third Grade

Mrs. Elliott

We have been busy improving our reading skills! Students are rapidly becoming more fluent thanks to more reading at school and at home. Please encourage your child to read as often as possible. You could turn the captions on when watching TV and turn the volume down. This is a quick way to get your child reading! We have been exploring different types of graphs in math and practicing how to tell time and determine elapsed time. We try to go outside for recess as much as possible. It is important that all students are wearing warm coats to school. Gloves, hats, and scarves are helpful too if it is windy. We will have benchmark results soon. Please contact your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

Fantastic Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is looking forward to an upcoming field trip! On April 15th we will be traveling to the first permanent English settlement, Jamestown! More information will be sent home regarding prices and student information. Report cards will be sent home the first week of February. Students are also preparing to take their second quarter benchmark exams in reading, math, and Virginia studies. Please have them continue to study multiplication and read each night.

Firm Fifth Grade

Mr. Tucker

Wow! Is it February already? This school year is definitely flying by!

The fifth graders just started the DARE program. The program will last through the end of April. Each week the students will learn about making positive choices in their lives. In Science, we are learning about the various parts and functions of plant and animal cells, and how scientists classify living organisms. In Math, the students will begin ordering sets of fractions and decimals, and we will convert fractions into decimals in order to make the process easier. Continue all of the reading that you are doing! Reading is the key to success in all subject areas.

Notes from the Nurse

Michelle Stiles Taylor RN

Hard to believe it is already February.

It is time for the 5th graders to start thinking about the move to 6th grade.

The State of Virginia requires all children entering the 6th grade to have a

Tdap Vaccine booster. Please contact your child's doctor to make an appointment for this vaccine. After your child receives the vaccine, please send a copy of the immunization record to the school nurse in the clinic. Without this vaccine, your child will be unable to start school in September.

Have a Fabulous February!!!

**Pungoteague
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Our Character Trait Theme for the month of February is Fairness. Classroom Guidance lessons will focus on Celebrating Diversity and Values emphasizing our uniqueness. Each week students are selected to participate on Friday morning announcements, "Character Counts".

Feb. 9 thru Feb. 27, 2015 we will be starting our kick off of "Sharing from the Heart" with Pennies for Patient Program sponsor by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). Letters will be sent home February 9th. For more information on the LLS mission, please visit www.lls.org.

Some strategies you can use to help your child to reduce Test Anxiety:

- Get a good night sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Get to school on time.
- Motivate your child to want to take a test.
- Give small rewards to your child for giving their best effort.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [\(757\) 787-4032](tel:7577874032)

Ms. Marla Fontaine, Guidance Counselor

Premier Pre-K Mrs. Ida Nedab

Pre-K and ECSE are working very hard to explore different ways of learning. We have been on several field trips since we started back to school from the holidays. The students loved visiting the YMCA in Onley, VA. Our instructor taught us about choosing healthy snacks and getting plenty of exercise. She gave us goldfish crackers and apple juice which was delicious. We also read us a book about eating healthy snacks.

Our next trip was to the Barrier Island Center in Machipongo, VA. We sang songs, played instruments, and listened to the story using felt pictures of The Three Little Pigs. Our Art lesson was about Birch Doodles. We learned about watercolor resisting technique and used cool colors. Check out our work that will be displayed in the hallway.



Assistant Principal's Message....

Ms. Belinda Rippon

Each day your child enters Pungoteague Elementary School, our teachers hope that by the end of the day your child leaves a little smarter. Our teachers are constantly looking for new ways to improve their instruction. From the 8:30 bell to the 3:15 bell, teachers are working hard to provide opportunities and experiences for our Bobcats so that they become successful in life. With your help as a parent, I want to challenge our students to take an active role in their education. Talk with your child about the importance of participating in classroom activities. Encourage your child to ask questions, volunteer in class, share a new idea, and to take full advantage of the opportunities to get the knowledge he/she needs to improve. Also, be a good role model by making sure your child is at school and on time every day. Learning, just as life, requires "doing" – doing classwork, doing homework, doing projects, doing reading assignments, and doing long division. When your child gets home each day, ask what he/she is "doing" in class. Show your child that what they are "doing" in school is important and encourage him/her to keep doing it. With encouragement and support from parents, our Bobcats will reach new heights!